

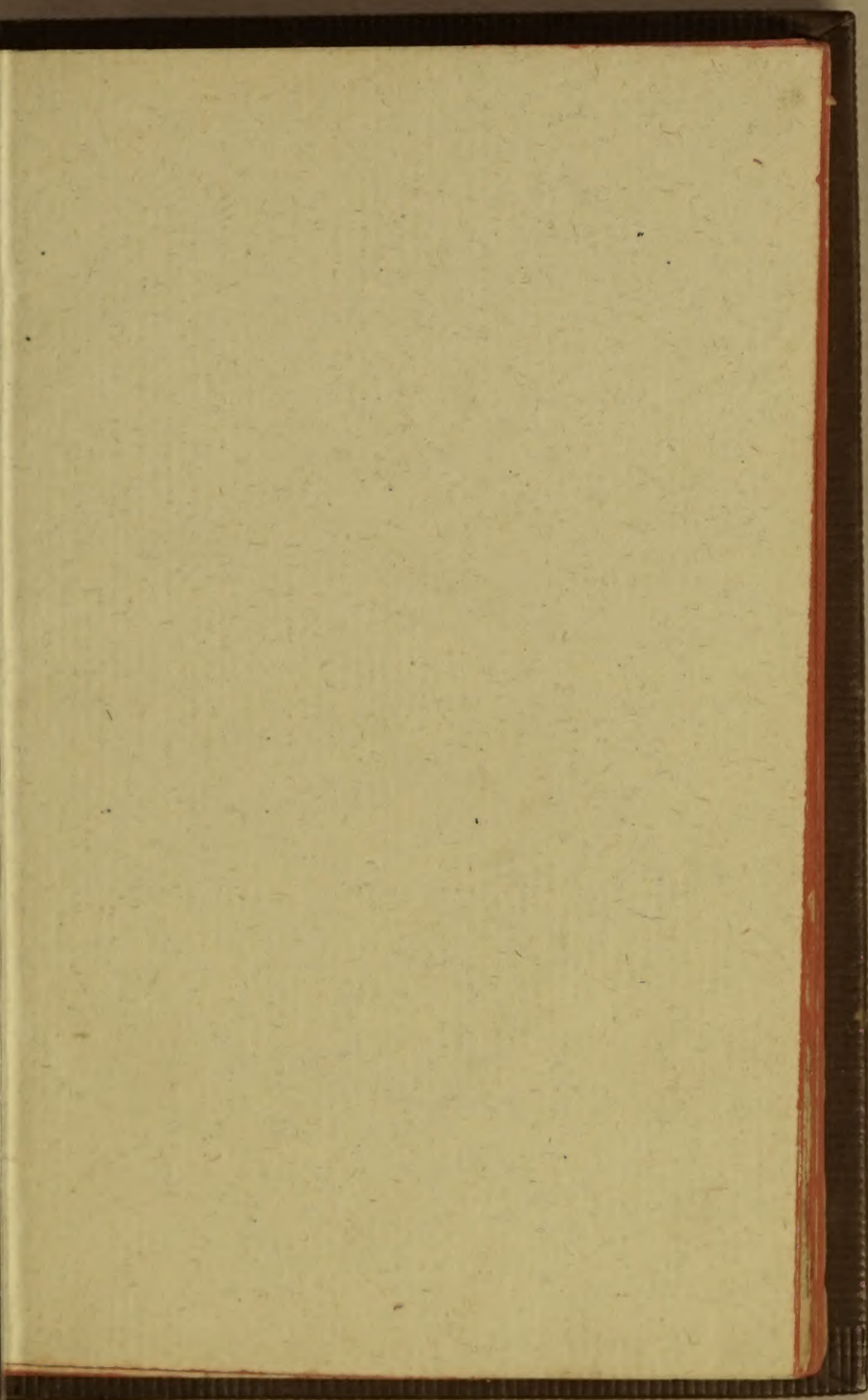


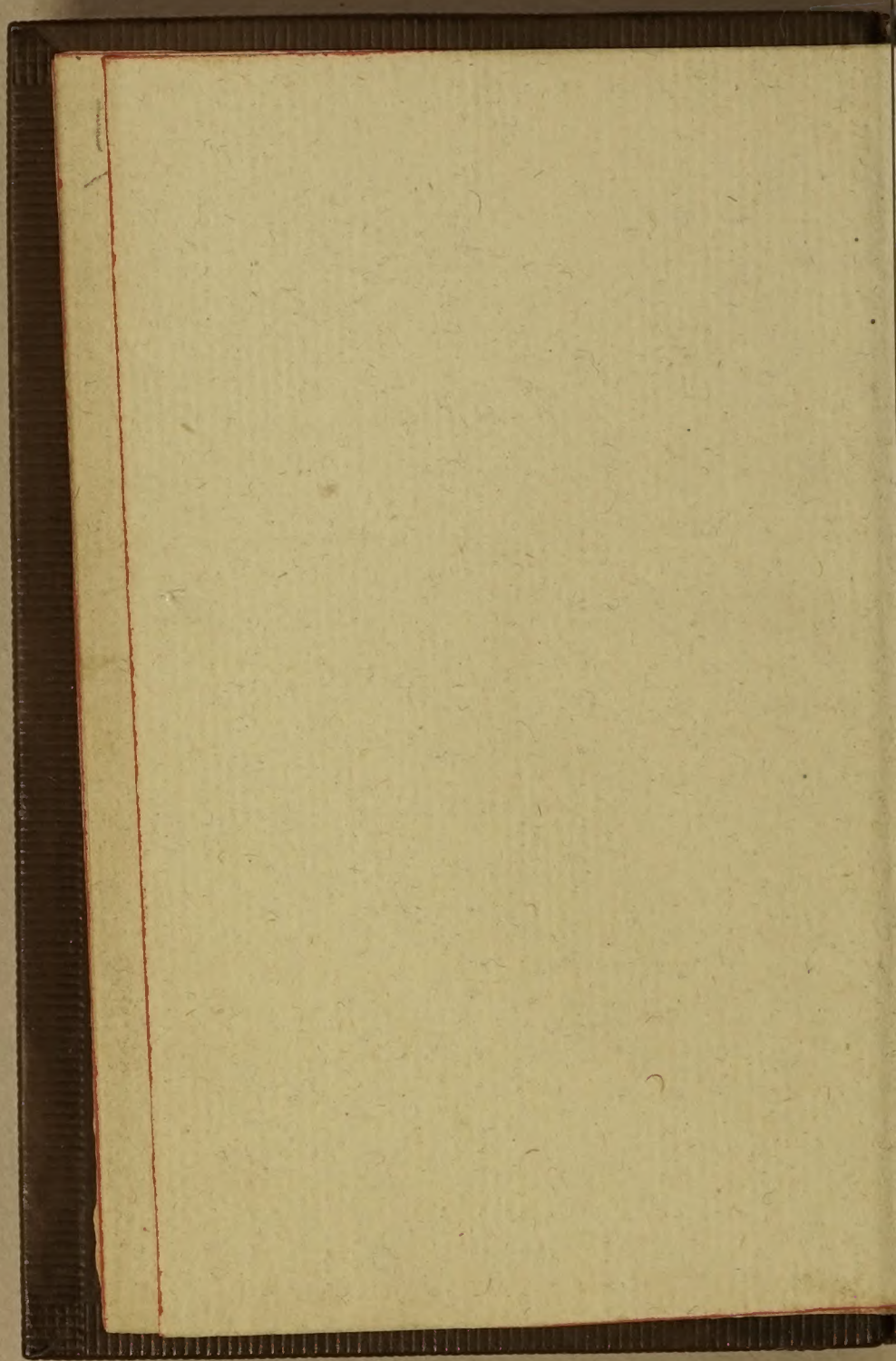
John Carter Brown.



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JCB has the two Ternary
Bromus separately - 1682

ΚΟΜΗΤΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ.

OR A

Discourse Concerning
COMETS;

Wherein the Nature of *BLAZING STARS*
is Enquired into:

With an Historical Account of all the COMETS
which have appeared from the Beginning of the
World unto this present Year, M.DC.LXXXIII.

Expressing

The Place in the Heavens, where they were seen,
Their Motion, Forms, Duration; and the Re-
markable Events which have followed
in the World, so far as they have been
by Learned Men Observed.

As also two SERMONS
Occasioned by the late *Blazing Stars*.

By *INCREASE MATHER*, Teacher of a Church
at *Boston in New-England*.

*Psal. III. 2. The works of the Lord are great, sought
out of all them that have pleasure therein.
Amos 9. 6. He buildeth his stories in the Heaven.*

BOSTON IN NEW-ENGLAND.

Printed by *S. G.* for *S. S.* And sold by *J. Browning*
At the corner of the Prison Lane next the Town-
House 1683.

JOHN CARTER BROWN.

PRICE



To the Reader.

THe Subject of this following Discourse, now offering it self to thy Perusal is one of the many *δυσκόνητα* which it hath pleased the Almighty Lord of Heaven and of Earth, to treat of and insist upon, in Drawing up and Publishing to the World the great and glorious volume of his Works : in the Margent whereof they have been frequently placed as Red Letters, Asterisms, or pointing Hands, to awaken unto a more heedful attention and serious consideration, the dead hearted sleeping and secure World of Mankind. To promote this, the best and most blessed end and use, of such tremendous and threatening Aspects of the highest and most Dreadful Majesty, is the pious design of the Reverend and Learned Author, in compiling & publishing this Treatise, & its a thousand pities it should not be attended to and attained by a People so circumstanced as we, English transplanted into, or procreated in these American Deserts, be. The labour and pains it hath cost the Author to peruse and consult so many Writers, ancient & modern, Astronomers, Chronologers, & Historians;

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To the Reader.

storians, is such as will render it very disingenious, not to give it a grateful and friendly reception and entertainment. He hath therein presented thee with, first, the Theory; secondly, the History of Comets, commonly called Blazing Stars. As to the Theory, there is (to my understanding) as much declared, as it hath pleased the Father of Lights and Fountain of all knowledge & wisdom (hitherto) to discover to poor ignorant Mortals; viz. the result of the judicious thoughts of the ablest and best accomplished Artists, who upon very many accurate, unquestionably true and exact Observations, made by the help of choicest Instruments improved by minds intensely set to search into, and find out the Mystery and Meaning of those abstruse and admirable works of him who is most High; have declared what they conceive most rationally probable. The wisest of Men know that they understand but little part of Gods wayes and works; and are not ashamed to confess that in things so much above humane Capacity, they are rather Quærists then Adeptists, content to be ignorant of what he is pleased as yet not to discover; our Authors modest expressing himself, sheweth he wrote under the influence of so humbling a consideration.

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To the Reader.

Of the second, or Historical part of the Discourse, the scope is, to evidence and evince that Comets are ordinarily the forerunners of disastrous Calamities, Mischiefs, & Miseries, hastning to follow and fall down on the heads of senseless & secure Sinners. For the clearing up and making out of which, by way of induction, a great multitude of particular Instances and Examples are out of sundry Authors of approved ability and faithfulness alledged; who have left upon Record their accurate observations of time, place, and other circumstances of several Comets in divers ages, with the dreadful Revolutions, dismal Com-motions and Confusions which followed them at the heels. If it be said, that some of those Peri-wigged Heraulds have appeared on the æthereal stage upon a more benign account: it may be rationally replied, that the number of such is very small: and that their blasting influences, might be direfully operative in remoter and less known parts of the Earth. When the hand of Heaven is seen writing MENE MENE TEKEL, &c. it may become the highest of Mortals to tremble. Reader, if thou art one any whit considerably raised above the level of the lowest sort of men, thou wilt not think it lost labour to acquaint thy self

To the Reader.

*with what is here presented: an awakening and
humbling is the best use thou canst make of it; to
see it improved unto the furthering thy souls best
good will be the most acceptable recompense of the
Pious Authors unwearied pains: That he may
see the desired travel of his soul, shall be the un-
feigned wish, of him who is,*

Thine in the Lord,

Decemb. 20. 1682.

JOHN SHERMAN.

To

To the Reader.

SOME Worthy Persons having desired me to Write the History of Comets; I resolved (with Divine Permission and Assistance) to spend the spare hours of a few Weeks in an endeavour that way. And accordingly I have perused what Books I could meet with, which might be helpful to me in this undertaking. There is a late Author (a) who on occasion of the Comets seen *Annis 1664, 65* hath published a large Volume, which he calls *Theatrum Cometicum*, wherein he giveth an account of all the Comets which have been observed since *Noub's* flood being in number 415, together with the Events, whether Prosperous or Adverse. Also *Erasmus Bartholinus* hath written upon those Comets, which Books, I have very much wished for a sight of, as supposing I should meet with Passages therein, that would be serviceable to me in my present design: But I could not at this distance from *Europe*, suddenly obtain them.

As for what concerns the *Time*, and other circumstances

To the Reader.

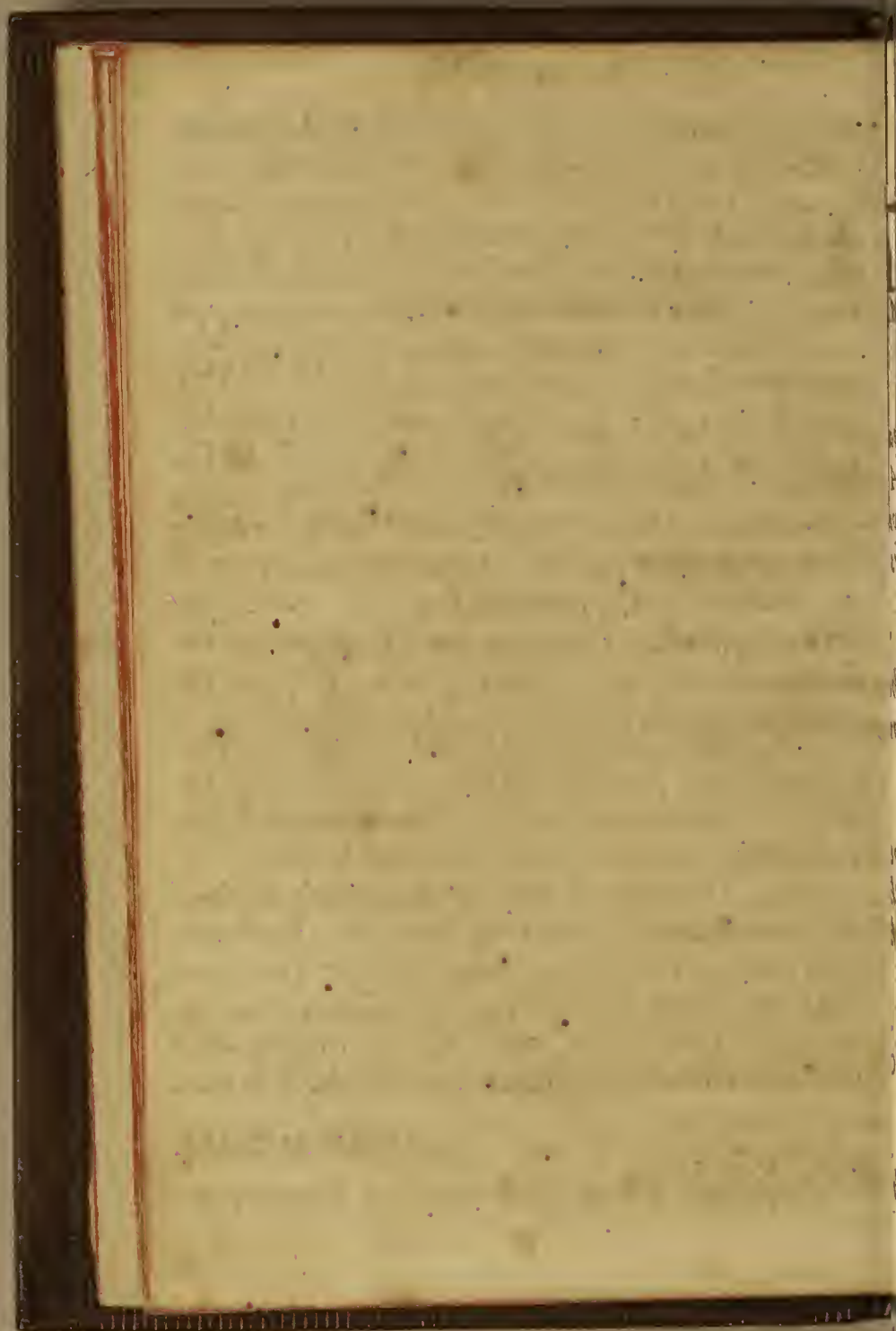
cumstances relating to these *Phaenomenas*; I have been chiefly beholding to the Collections of *Alstedius*, *Longemontanus*, *Kepler*, *Hevelius* and *Ricciolus*. Though *Rockenbachius* is many times cited, I could not obtain the perusal of his Book (it not being in this *American Wilderness*) only I take his Observations upon trust from *Hevelius*, who hath faithfully expressed what the other hath written. Concerning remarkable *Events*: Besides the Authors mentioned, I have consulted *Funccius*, *Calvisius*, *Cluverius*, and several other Historians; and if the Reader please to take the pains to search the Authors quoted in the Margin, or where none is there cited, if he look into *Calvisius* and *Funccius* their Chronologies he will find that things have been truly related. As for Events which have hapned in these late times, it is needless to quote any Author, for that which our own eyes have seen, or ears heard. I know (as the great *Orator* could say) I am not born for my self, but for others. I may hope that my labour herein, will not be altogether unacceptable to the *English Reader*, since there never was yet (so far as I understand) an attempt of this kind, by an *English* hand. My chief design, is to inform and edifie the ordinary sort of *Readers*. Yet considering that God hath made me a debter to the wise as well as to the weak, I have added some things of the nature, place, motion of *Comets*, which only such as have some skill in *Astronomy* can understand; and unto such, hints of that kind will
be

To the Reader.

be both pleasant and profitable; such kind of knowledge being that which Tradition saith the Holy Patriarchs were some of them delighted in. Upon the mention of Historical passages, A.M. 2026. Abraham docuit Mathematicam & Astronomiam Allst. Encyclop. L. 33. Ca. 8 p. 2119 to do) taken special notice thereof, supposing that it may be instructive to some Readers, and not ungrateful unto others. These late years having been attended with several Comets, and there being some who would have the World believe, there is no cause of dread when such Ensigns amidst the Heavenly Host, are held up in the sight of all the Earth; I hope the publishing a discourse on the present Subject, will not be judged unreasonable. When the Benjamites saw the Flame, with a Pillar of smoke (in a proper and literal sense) though before they knew not that evil was near unto them, yet then they could not but be sensible of it. Judge. 20. 34, 40. If any be awakened with the sight of these Pillars of Smoke which we have seen flaming in Heaven, to prepare for whatever changes may befall them; And if this Treatise shall promote the attainment of that end, my design in writing of it will not be wholly frustrated, nor my labour in vain.

INCREASE MATHER,

Boston N. E. Dec. 31.
1682.



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A

Discourse Concerning COMETS.

CHAP. I.

*That Comets are not in the Air, but in the
Starry Heaven. Their Origin and
true matter enquired into.*

THe Sentiments of learned Men, concerning the place where and the matter out of which Comets are made; have been very various. The *Péripatetick School* has phansied them to be *Meteors*, generated out of the Bowels of the Earth, exhaled and extolled by the Sun to the supream Region of the Air, and there set on Fire. It would be needless and endless to tell how many have after *Aristotle* embraced this Opinion, but it may not be unprofitable in a few words to evince the contrary, *viz.* That Comets are not placed in the first heaven or Air, but farre above it,

it, in the *second* or *Starry Heaven*, and that therefore they are rather *Stars* than *Meteors*.

a In *Come-*
tographiæ Lib.
2. Pag. 132.

1. That most learned Mathematician *Hevelius* his argument from the motion of *Comets* is irrefragable (a) whatever body (saith he) is moved in the great Circle, dividing the Sphere, and keeping fixed Poles, is certainly *Ethereal* and not *Aereal*. But this is true of every *Comet*; its diurnal or common motion, is absolved as other *Cælestial* bodies are, which cannot be said of any sort of *Meteors*; yea, the motion thereof is exact and regular, though at first its more swift, and afterwards more slow, yet in that inequality, there is an exact proportion and regularity observed, when as it is otherwise with *Meteors* that are tossed to and fro, and move not through the great Circle. The motion of *Comets* doth very much imitate not that of the *fixed Stars*, but of the *Planets*, whence they are by some called *Pseudo-Planeta*, and by others *Spurious-Planets*. And the Holy Scripture seems to give that name of *Planets* to them, or as our Translation hath it *wandering Stars*, *Jude*, 13. Ἀσέρες πλανῆται.

2. The truth of what we assert, is manifest

manifest to those that understand any thing in the Doctrine *Parallaxes*. It is an indubitable Maxim, that the less the *Parallax* the remoter the *Phænomenon*. But *Comets* have a less *Parallax* than the Moon, which shews that they are *Supra-Lunary Bodies*, sometimes they admit of no sensible *Parallax* at all, as might by many instances be confirmed, Let us for Arguments sake, imagine the supream Region of the *Air* to extend as far as 20 Semidiameters of the Earth, *b. e.* 17000 *German Miles* (which it is most certain it doth not, nor the half of one thousand, as anon will be made to appear) if the *Comet* (b) is no higher then that, there will be a considerable *Parallax*. Inasmuch then, as to many *Comets* there hath been no *Parallax*, that demonstrates their being elevated above 17000 *Mil. Germ.* and consequently as far as the *Ætherial Heaven*. Therefore,

b *Hevel Lib. 3.*
Pag. 160.

3. Learned Men of these later times, wherein light in things natural as well as divine hath been admirably discovered, have by the help of Mathematical Instruments made ocular demonstrations, that *Comets* are far above this *Aery Heaven*, wherein Animals live and move.

c Lib. 5. P. 317

Kepler de Co-
metis P. 33.

Kepler observed the Blazing Star which was seen A.D. 1618. to be at its first appearance three times as high as the Moon. Hevelius (c) then whom no man was more industrious and accurate in observing the Comet, A. D. 1652. saith that January the first it was as high as the Sphere of Mercury, January the sixth as high as Venus, Jan. 8. as high as Mars, January 9. as high as the Orb of Jupiter. It was distant from the Earth 15494. S T. and not only the more subtile Doctrine of Parallaxes demonstrates that Blazing Stars are beyond the aery Region, but other considerations also evince it, e. g. that of its continuing so many hours above the Horizon, and being observed by persons in Countreyes remote one from another at the same hour, to be in the same constellation or place in the Heavens. Let us (saith Hevelius) suppose the supream Region of the Air to be 20 German miles (or 80 Italic miles) off, and yet that is no doubt higher then the Air is extended; for the tops of some Mountains are higher then the Clouds, so as that the Air doth not go beyond them: If men ascend the top of Mount Olympus in Asia, they die for want of air, being out of their Elements,

Concering Comets.

ments, just as Fishes die when lifted above the water; But supposing it to be 80 miles distant from the Earth, and the Comet to be there, it would not have been above the Horizon, more then two hours; when as it was so 17 hours. And at the very hour when

(d) *Hevelius* did at *Dantzick* observe it to be in the Star near the foot of *Perseus*, *Bullialdus* in *Paris* saw it in the very same place, whenas, if it had been no higher then the supream Region of the air, it would have appeared to *Bullialdus* (being then in *Paris*) in *Hercules* and not in *Perseus*, as it did to those in *Dantzick*. Nor would a Blazing Star be observed by all the World at once (where the Stars under which it moves, are seen) if it were not above the air. The opinion of *Panetius*, who thought that a Comet was a meer *Emphasis* or *Parelion*, proceeding from the reflection of some other Star, is solidly refuted, from this consideration, that a *Parelion* is not seen in all Countries at once; The same argument proveth that Comets have their existence above the air.

d *Idem* in *Lib.*
3.P. 151, 155.

4. We may argue from the magnitude of Comets, that they are as high as the starry Heaven. *Snellius* (e) en-

e *In Libro de*
Cometa Anno.
1618.

deavours by Mathematical demonstration to evince that if the whole airy Heaven should be contracted into one Globe it would not be so big as the head of that Comet, which appeared, A. D. 1577. how then is it possible for the air to contain so vast a body? *Majus non potest contineri a minori.* And *Gotfridus Wendelinus* observed that the magnitude of the Comet which appeared A. D. 1652. did equal or exceed the Moon. And *Hevelius* (f) writing of the same Comet, saith, that it was greater then the Moon, and that he was astonished, when with exact Mathematical Instruments he examined it; and though other Learned Men were with him at the same time, and helpful in his Observations, he professeth he could not have believed what they said, if his own eyes had not beheld it. Nay, he saith, that that Comet did almost equal the Sun a little before its disappearing, (g) yet the Sun is (according to his judgment) 3462 times as big as the Earth. Is it likely that a body of so stupendious a magnitude should be contained in this low & little Heaven, wherein Mortal Creatures have their Breath and Being?

f L. 6. P. 323.

g. Ibid. P. 338.

5. Some Comets (as *Galtruchius de Sphæra*

Sphæra Mundi, Cap. 6. P. 125. confesseth) have been absconded, by the interposition of a Planet between the Earth and them, which could not be if they did not move in an higher Sphere then the Planet whereby they were Eclipsed : But notwithstanding these Arguments are so convictive and demonstrative, its marvellous to see how some Popish Authors (*Jesuites* especially) train their wits to defend their Pagan Master Aristotle his Principles. Bullialdus speaks of a Florentine Physician, that all the Friends he had could never perswade him once to view the Heavens through a Telescope, and he gave that reason for his refusal, because he was afraid that then his Eyes would make him stagger concerning the truth of Aristotles Principles, which he was resolved he would not call into question. It were well, if these Men had as great veneration for the Scripture as they have, for Aristotles (if indeed they be his) absurd Books *de cælo ed de his satis*.

It is an easier matter to prove that Comets are in the *Æther*, then to declare how they came there. Some ancient Philosophers judged them to be revolvins with the Planets, and fixed

h *Consulantur*
Aristot. meteor
Lib. 1. Chap. 6.
Plutarch de
placitis Philo-
sophorum, L. 3.
Chap. 5.
Ricciolus de
Cometis L. 8.
P. 36, 40.

Stars, and that only their appearance and not their existence is new. This Opinion (h) was embraced by *Pythagoras, Diogenes, Seneca*, and by the old *Chaldeans*. Nor is it contradicted by *Columbus, Licetus, Cartesius*, with some other late Writers. And it must be acknowledged, that notwithstanding their disappearance at certain times, for many years together, they may be *coetaneous*, and altogether of the same nature with the true Planets. A rectilinear motion may soon cause a Star to vanish out of our sight which yet hath a real existence still. Or some density or obscurity in the *Atmosphere* though our Air should be never so clear, may cause it to be unobservable by us. Antient Writers speak of some fixed Stars which are not seen by us. And divers of them do not now appear to be of the same magnitude, as in former ages. And sundry *new Stars* have of late appeared which the former Generation never saw. It seems not consonant to reason to imagine, either that the old Stars are lost, or that new ones are of late created, those glorious celestial Bodies being of perpetual duration. The Stars are by the *Hebrews* called *Chochabim*, probably by Antiphrasis from

from *Chabab extinxit*, because they are Lights which never go out; And for ought that any man is able to prove to the contrary, they shall remain as everlasting Monuments of the power & wisdom of God, throughout the dayes of Eternity. Nevertheless, it is admirable (i) to consider, that there is a Star of later times observed in *collo Cæti* which disappears every year for several Moneths, and then appears again, in the very same place where it was the last year; Being at first very small and obscure, but afterwards a bright Star of the second magnitude. Also, a new Star appeared in the Swans breast, *A.D.* 1601 and continued shining there until the year 1660. and then it disappeared, (k) and when, or whether ever it will be seen again, no man can say: also a new Star was lately (*viz.* *Anno.* 1672.) discerned in the Swans head. But though the Argument from disappearance be invalid, it is from other reasons manifest, that they are not such *Planets* as those created at the beginning of the World are. Comets are often seen out of the *Zodiack*, which the true *Planets* are not. They dispatch more way by far then the *Planets* do. That (l) Comet, *A.D.* 1618

i *De hac admiranda stella doctissimus Hevelius peculiarem librum scripsit*

k *Cometographia P. 282.*

See the Philosophical transactions for year 1677. P. 854.

l *Ricciolus ubi supra P. 41.*

in the space of three Moneths dispatch'd 180 Degrees. No Planet goeth over so great an arch of the circle in so short a time. Some Comets have moved 20, 30, nay 40 Degrees in one natural day. Whenas the lesser Planets do not absolve two degrees in that time.

Comets then are *Temporary*, whenas the true Planets are *perpetual*. As for the matter out of which they are generated, *Snellius*, *Puteanus*, *Fromondus*, and others conceive them to be compacted out of evaporations, which do proceed from the Sun. Our modern *Mathematicians*, have observed, that there are *Macula Solares* or spots about the Sun, which sometimes may be discerned for many dayes together: & sometimes for several Moneths, nothing of that nature can be perceived. *Hevelius* (m) concludeth that the *Effluvia* proceeding from the Sun are such, as will afford matter enough for 68 Comets in one year, in case those æthereal vapours should congregate into a body. The wisest of men must ingeniously confess their own ignorance in these things, and that what they say is but problematical and conjectural. I shall not therefore be positive in any determination, which concerns the matter

m Lib. 7. Page
40. 405.

er that Comets are formed out of. Only I am easily induced to believe, that they are generated out of the same matter which Stars were in the beginning of the World, made of, viz. *Light*, or the *Element of Fire*, being first condensed into lesser particles, and after that conglomerated into a vast body. In the Scripture, the Stars are called *Luminaries*, *Ge. 1. 14 15* [*Meoroth*] *quasi* [*min* Or] *ex luce vel igne qui abs Hebræis* [*Ur*] *ficiuntur, a lucendo*. We see that the Sun both beat down fire continually, inas- much as the beams thereof, if conden- ed with a Glass, will burn. *Anaxagoras* n) and *Democritus* of old thought that Comets were made of many little Stars growing into one. Which *Cusatus*, *Tannerus*, and other neotericks confess to be a very probable opinion. Some Comets have appeared broken into many Stars. In that famous Comet which was seen *A.D. 1618*. one might with Telescope discern many small clots like Stars or Coals of Fire. At first it seemed to be one solid lump, but on December 8. it was divided into three unequal parts, Dec 17. it was broken into many little Stars, Decemb. 24. it was dissolved into more and lesser Stars

n *Aristot. meteor L. 1. C. 6.*

Plutarch de placit. Philosophorum L. 3. C. 2

Wendelinus in Teratologia cometica P. 21.

A. D

A.D. 1652. not on'y *Hevelius* and *Wendelin*, but the Astronomers in *Mantua* viewing of it with a Telescope, perceived in the head of that Comet, a great many of smal Stars, & one bigger & longer than the rest, like coals of fire in an Hearth or Oven, when the wood is consumed. Mr. *Robert Hook* (an ingenious Mathematician now in *London*) observed a Star in the midst of the head of that Comet which was seen in *April*, A.D. 1677. The like is to be said concerning several other Comets, as may be seen in the ninth Chapter of this Dissertation. And there are many who to confirm this Notion that a Comet is a company of small Stars growing into one body, affirm that they usually appear about the *Galaxia* or *Milky Way*, wherewith the skye glitters. Now the Telescope discovers that part of the skye to be exceeding full of little Stars. Blazing Stars do not alwayes (though often) appear there. Nevertheless, I believe that when we know more of the true and natural reason of the *Vulgaris* *Lactia*, we shall understand more of the nature of Comets.

CHAP. II.

THe several sorts of Comets considered. The natural reason of the Blaze

Blaze, the time of their appearance can certainly be predicted. Notwithstanding their proceeding from natural causes, they may be portentous signs of evil Events.

Having briefly Discoursed of the place where, and the matter out of which Comets have their existence; we now proceed to consider the usual distributions of those admirable and amazing works of the glorious Creator, whose works are great, and sought out by those that have pleasure therein. As for the parts of which a Comet doth consist there is the *Star* & the *Blaze* proceeding therefrom, whence we call them *Blazing Stars*. Or, the *Body* of the *Star*, and the *stream* that follows or goeth before it, which the *Greeks* call *Cometa*, whence such *Phænomena* have the names of *Comets* given to them. In respect of the *Blaze*, Comets have been distinguished into several sorts. The *Affyrians*, *Arabians*, and others in old times, were wont from the colour of the blaze to denominate the Comet e.g. (p) when it was of a dark and leadish kind of colour, they called it a *Saturnine*; if of a bright Silver shining colour, a *Jovial*; if red and fiery, a *Martial*; if of a Golden aspect a *Solar*; if a bright yel;

p Mizaldus de
Cometis.

q *Nat. Histor-*
L.2.C.25
 r Longoman
tanus de novis
cæli phænom.
 C. 1. Ricciolus
de Cometis C. 2
 Hevelius *Co-*
metogr. L.8.
 P. 439.

yellow a *Veneréal*; if cærulean and va-
 rious, a *Mercurial* Comet. But the
Latines and *Greeks* have distinguished
 Comets from the form of the *Blaze*
 which they appear with. *Pliny* (q
 mentions about ten several sorts of *Blaz-*
ing Stars. But all may be reduced
 to these two general heads: viz. (r
 That a Comet is either 1, *Crinite*, h.e.
 when the Beams or Blaze is all round
 the body of the Star; under which
 cometh that sort of Comet which is
 called *Discens*, appearing in form like a
 Dish. *Pickites*, when the Comet is like
 a Tub or Hogthead, *Hippens*, when it
 resembles an Horses main. *Hircus*,
 when the Blaze is like to Goats hair.
 Or 2. *Barbate*, h.e. when the Blaze is
 on the one side of the Comet only.
 Under this comes that which is called
Acontias, when the blaze is in the form
 of a Dart. *Longitis*, when it is in the
 form of a Lance or Spear. *Xiphias*,
 when in the form of a Sword. *Cere-*
rias when it bends like a crooked Horn.
Lampadias, when it blazeth like a Lamp.
 As for the true cause of the *Blaze*, it
 seems evident that it doth proceed from
 the *Sun beams*, passing through the bo-
 dy of the Star. For the *Coma* or *Blaze*
 is not on that side of the Star which is

next

xt to the Sun, but which is opposite
 ere from. Some antient Writers be-
 n a little to take notice of this. But
 ppianus was the first that did fully and
 early discern it to be so, being con-
 nced of the truth of this notion, by
 e several Comets which himself lived
 see, viz. Those in *Anno. 1531, 32, 33,*
39. Likewise *Gemma*, and *Cornelius*
rijus, *Fracastorius*, *Tycho*, and of la-
 r times *Gassendus*, and many other fa-
 ous Mathematicians, and diligent ob-
 rvers of things of this nature
 om the learned Reader may see quo-
 d by (s) *Hevelius*. Moreover, (i) *Ubi supra* C.
 6. P. 16.
Longomontanus observeth, that if the
 comet have a more lateral disposition
 wards the Sun, then it will be *Canda-*
 , but if the opposition to the Sun be
 ore direct, or the Comet elevated a-
 ve the Sun, then it will be *Crinite*, or
 e Blaze but short. The blaze is long
 short according to the opposition to-
 ards the Sun, and distance from the
 rth. The blaze of some Comets
 th extended it self above ninety De-
 ees. There was one in *Aristotle's*
 ne that was an 130 Degrees in Lon-
 tude. If the Comet be higher then
 e Sun, the blaze will be short. If
 e Comet be as low as the Sun, then
 the

u De augmen-
tis scientiarum
P. 242.

w Franciscus
Junctinus in
Annotationibus
de Cometis
Cornelius
Gemina Cos-
mogr. L. I C. 18

x Edlin in his
prænuncius sy-
dereus Pag. 36
37. 89.

the nearer it is to the Sun, the longer will the blaze appear to be. By things that have been thus far discovered, we may conclude that the time of any Comets appearance cannot certainly be prædicted before hand. Some very learned men, (in special the great and noble (u) Verulam) have supposed that this knowledge is attainable. Indeed, if Comets were sempiternal bodies, by experience and observation their appearance might be exactly prædicted. But since they are generated in the *Aether*, no man can any more tell when they shall be seen, then he can know when a *Paralion*, or *Draco volans* or the like will be generated in the Air. Yet I will not deny, but that a *probable conjecture*, as to the year of a Comets appearance, may be made from the conjunction of the superiour Planets. It hath been (w) observed that the rare Conjunctions are commonly attended with the appearance of some new Star, or Comet: So indeed it was as to this *Blazing Stars* in 1504, 1525, 1577, 1583, 1664. notable conjunctions of the Planets did præceded them. Upon this ground, (x) an *Astrologer*, publishing a Treatise of conjunction of *Saturn* and *Jupiter*

An

anno. 1663. conjectured that
Comet would appear the next year:
which hapned to be true; and if an *A-*
strolager (as the blind man hits the
mark) chance to prædict right once,
more notice is taken of that, then of
mistaking an hundred times over.
very notable Conjunctions of the Pla-
nets hapned this present, and will
so again the next year, (as shall be
more particularly mentioned) If any
man should now positively affirm, that
within this twelve moneth another *Blaz-*
ing Star will appear, it would be pre-
mptuous, although it is both possible
and probable that it may so come to
pass. But the observation doth not
wayes hold good; For there have
been both greater and lesser Conjun-
tions of the Planets, when no Comet
hath appeared, and many Comets with-
out any such Conjunctions immediately
succeeding. In few words, sometimes,
many *Blazing Stars* have been seen
within the compass of a few years;
there have been at least ten within these
eighty years last past. But in some a-
ges, not one Comet hath appeared for
hundred years together. Since se-
veral may appear (in two, nay) in one
year, and it may be not one in fifty nor
in

in an hundred years, the appearance of such *Phænomena's*, cannot be infallibly foreseen by any humane understanding upon Earth.

y Hevelius in
Cometogr. Lib.
8. P. 549.

z Luther in
Joel 2. *scilicet* &
glossa ordinaria
Gaspar sancti-
us & alii in lo-
cum.

There are who think, that inasmuch as Comets may be supposed to proceed from natural causes, there is no *speaking voice of Heaven* in them, beyond what is to be said of all other works of God. But certain it is, that many things which may happen according to the course of nature, are portentous signs of divine anger, and prognosticks of great evils hastening upon the world. A Learned and Judicious Author (y) conceiveth that the prodigious darkness which hapned in the Sun at the time of our Saviour Christ's Passion was caused by a Comets interposing itself between the Sun and the Earth; yet that darkness was a sign of Gods anger, and that darkness of misery should come upon the *Jewish Nation*, for their unparalleled wickedness in Crucifying the Son of God. Luther thinks, that the *Joels* Prophecie was fulfilled, who predicted that the Sun should be turned into (z) darkness before the terrible day of the Lord came. Thunder, Lightning, Hail, and Rain, are from natural causes yet are they sometimes signs of Gods holy

holy displeasure, *Exod.* 9. 24, 34. *1 Sam.* 1. 1. & *12.* 17. Earthquakes are from natural causes, yet there is many times a very speaking voice of God in them.

The Jews have a Tradition, that the first Earth-quake hapned in the dayes of *Nahor*, as a sign of Gods anger because men were then become idolaters: They also say that when *Joshua* was buried there was an Earth-quake in the place where he was interred, signifying that God was offended at the Children of *Israel*, because they layed not *Joshua's* death to heart so much as they should have done, whence (a) that

Mountain is called *Har gaba's* The trembling Mountain: *R. Azarias* (b) upon occasion of a terrible Earth-quake, which hapned in *Ferraria*, A.D. 1571. wrote a Discourse on that Subject, and the Title of his Book

Kol Elohim h. e. The voice of God. and the Holy Scriptures mention Earth-quakes as being sometimes Prognosticks of Mutations and Miseries, & Signs of divine anger. *Amos* 1. 1. *Ech.* 14. 5. *Luk.* 21. 11. *1 Sam.* 14, 15. the great Revolutions and Conjunctions of the Planets come to pass according to the ordinary course of nature; but are they wont to be attended with

C remarkable

Psal. 18. 13, 14. & 77. 17, 18.

a V. Notat Lempercur in R Benjamin Itinerar P. 142. b Vide Hottinger dissertation de Terræ motu P. 186.

remarkable Commotions in this low World, as is commonly observed & believed by Learned Men, & may further be declared in the close of this Discourse. The like is to be said of notable Eclipses of the Luminaries in Heaven. I confess I have not so great an Opinion of the ominousness of *Eclipses*, as I perceive some Learned and Good Men have, since every Year, there is an Eclipse taken notice of in one part of the Earth or other. Nevertheless, whoso reads *Calvisius* and other Chronologers, will perhaps think that such a notion is not wholly to be slighted. Chronologers observe that in the very Year when the ten Tribes were carried into Captivity, there hapned a great Eclipse of the Sun, which came not to pass without a special hand of divine providence; unto this the Prophecy seemeth to allude, *Amos 8. 9.* That *Eclipse* was ominous of a *Dark Day* coming upon *Samaria*. Many notable Instances might be produced to this purpose. And something hath been observed among our selves, which seems to confirm their Opinion, who believe that *total* and *central Eclipses* are ominous of mutations where they happen. There was such an *Eclipse*

the Sun in *New England* (Aug. 12. D. 1672.) the day before the Commencement, and that Year the Colledge as *Eclipsed* by the death of the Learned President there, worthy M. Chauncy; and two Colonies (viz. *Massachusetts*, and *Plimouth*) by the death of two Governors, who died within a twelvemonth after. Known unto God are his works from the beginning of the World. He that rideth upon the heavens, and in his Excellency on the Earth, when he decreed that such events should come to pass; did also determine that such things should go before. Shall then such mighty works of God as Comets are, be insignificant things? There are (as in the last Chapter we shall more amply express) who think that Comets have a natural influence on the Earth. *Hevelius* (d) acknowledged that the Blaze proceeding from some Comets, doth strike the earth, though Men perceive it not, because when the Comet must be in Conjunction with the Sun. The accurate and ingenious *Kepler* (e) supposeth that the side of some Comets, is perforated by the Earth. If so, they may well cause droughts, and many other miseries. But others take them to be indicant

d *Ubi supra*
Page 319.

e *In Cometarum*
Physiologix P.
104.

rather than *natural* (they may be, and for my part I believe they are both signs of evils to come; like as strange apparitions in the air, Armies fighting Ships sailing there, and the like have no natural influence to cause wars and commotions where they are seen only they are *indications* of such troubles at hand. It may furthermore be added, that though evils should not follow, God may in his merciful providence, cause such sights to be observed that so he might awaken Mortals to Repentance. He sometimes threateneth because he would not strike. *Augustine* (f) speaketh of a fiery Cloud that hung over the City of Constantinople, whereat the People were amazed and fell to praying and crying to God for mercy, and promised reformation of their evil wayes, and Judgement did not follow. *Volens quidem Deus terrore civitatem, & terrendo emendare.* know there are that esteem Prognostications of this nature, as weak and groundless. So doth *Erastus*, and many Popish Authors, and some few others. *Vincentius Guinifus* made an Oration *de felicitate Cometarum*, declaring that the *Blazing Star* which appeared *An. 1618.* was an happy *Blazing*

f *Lege eum de*
civitate dei L. 2
C. 21. L. 3. C. 1
L. 22. C. 8.

ing Star, but I believe there is not
ne good man in the World of his mind
s to that particular Comet. A (g)

suit (who I suppose is still living) hath
ese words, *plerosque cometas absque*

la calamitate fuisse assero. A false and
bold assertion. Another Jesuit (h)

less learned than the former, at-

tempting to give a Catalogue of happy

comets, could not reckon up above

twelve such since the World began, and

me of those were attended with the

most direful effects that can be menti-

ed; only because *Tamerlain* prosper-

ed, it must be called a *Faustous Co-*

met. I have else where mentioned, that

the Wise Men among the *Gentiles* al-

ways looked upon *Blazing Stars* as

lorum prænuncios, the *Heraulds*, and

messengers of evil Tidings to the world.

The ancient Doctors in the Christian

Church, *Tertullian*, *Damasene*, and (i)

many others, were of the same Opini-

on. And so are the generality of our

modern and judicious Divines. And

chiefly this Opinion tends more to

superstition, and the fear of God, than theirs

of the Philosophers, who think that *Blazing Stars* sig-

nify no more than a Cloud in the air.

And moreover, of weighty considera-

tion, I will shew, (and I hope will be so

g *Franciscus*
Milleit Afro.
L. 8. P. 582.

h *Ricciolus de*
Cometis P. 34

i *Quos vide ci-*
tatos apud Tan-
nerum in dis-
sertatione de
caelo Quest. 7.
Par 4.

k Cometa
 r7 a Cbri-
 stodicitur
 Franzius de
 interpretatione
 Scripturæ Pag
 1023.

with many others) that the Scriptures doth declare, not only that the Stars are for signs, but that *Fearful sights in the Heavens* (k) (and such are Comets) signify calamitous times, and that *signs in the Stars*, betoken a storm among the Nations upon *Earth*, and that *Pillars of smoke* portend a notable day of the Lord to be at hand; also the experience both of the former, and of the present age declareth, that when *Blazing Stars* have been seen, great mutations and miseries have come upon Mortals, as will by the subsequent Relation be made to appear.

CHAP. III.

The History of Comets from the beginning of the World to the first coming of Christ; together with some remarkable Events attending them.

There are sundry Learned men, who affirm that in the Year after the Creation 1656. which was (according to the computation of those great Chronologers, *Calvisius* and *Helvicus*) two thousand two hundred and ninety two years before our Saviours nativity

ere was seen a formidable *Blazing*
Star, which all the old World beheld
 in the space of nine and twenty dayes.
 appeared first in the sign of *Pisces*,
 and in a moneths time passed through
 all the twelve Signs of the *Zodiack*, as
 affirmed by (a) *Herlicius*. (b) *Eck-*
ermius, and *Röckenbachius*. This is
 the first *Comet*, that any Writers (so
 far as in my small reading I have obser-
 ved) make mention of. Immediate-
 ly upon its appearing *Methuselah* died,
 and according unto the signification of
 the name, which his Father *Enoch* (be-
 ing a Prophet) imposed upon him:
 the next Year, the Flood came, where-
 by all the Men, Women and Children
 throughout the Earth (excepting eight
 persons) perished. And it is the
 judgement of some; † that more per-
 sons were drowned by *Noahs* flood
 than are now living upon the face of
 the whole Earth, or ever have been at
 any time since that.

a In descriptione
 cometæ 1607.
 b In Historia
 cometarum

† Aventinus
 Sebastianus
 Frank. Galii.

Anno Mundi. 1744. There appeared
 a *Comet* in the sign of *Capricorn*, which
 in the space of sixty five dayes passed
 through three of the *Cælestial* Signs.
 the building of *Babel*, confusion of
 languages, and consequent dispersing
 Mankind throughout the World,
 have

c Testante Rö-
 ckenbachio de
 cometis

d. subito non
comparuit trans-
latus a diis. Be-
rosus. forte a
malis demoniis
ob maximam
impietatem.
Funccius

f Berofus

g Idem ubi supr.

h Funccius.

have been noted as Events attending that Comet. *Nimrod*, (the first Tyrant in the world) was (d) carried away after an unknown manner. Some think that God permitted the Devil to carry that most wicked man alive body and soul to Hell.

A. M. 2118. A Comet was observed in the sign of *Aries*, which continued for the space of 22 dayes. After this followed that Famine mentioned in the Scripture which caused *Abraham* to remove into *Egypt*. Also *Camsenuus* (f) headed an Army, and fell upon the *Assyrians*, but *Ninias* withstood him, in Battle overcame him, and caused his head to be cut off.

A. M. 2128. (g) Not many years after the death of *Abraham*, another Comet appeared in the sign of *Leo* for the space of nine dayes. Great mutations and miseries quickly followed in the World, as *Serapis* and *Osiris* (*Egyptian Demons*) had prognosticated. Also, that Famine in *Isaac's* dayes of which we read *Gen. 26. 1*. About this time *Phaeton* (who is thought to be that Son of *Cham* who is by *Moses* called *Phut*) (h) caused a fearful conflagration in *Italy*. Whence it was called then *Palesana*, i.e. the burnt Countrey.

A. M.

A.M. 2230. A fiery and terrible comet was seen, appearing in *Sagittarius*, coyling alter a strange manner, presenting the form of an imperfect circle (i) 'Tis judged that *Pliny* speaks of this Prodigy. It was by the King of Egypt then living called by the name of *Amphion*, i.e. *Vortex fumigans sed sine igne*. Which seems to confirm their opinion not to think that in old time a Comet was known by that Name (k) of a Pillar of smoke. After this Comet, there was a dearth for (l) seven years together, and that in all Countries; viz. that isoken of in the Scripture in *Joseph's* time, which followed the seven years plenty in *Egypt*, *Canaan*, *Ethiopia*, *Egypt* and other Countries felt the useful effects of that Prodigy.

A.M. 2453. (m) A Comet was observed in *Syria*, *Chaldea*, &c. in the sign of *Capricorn*; in which year the children of *Israel* were delivered from their bondage to the *Egyptians*, when *Pharaoh* and his Host received that fatal and memorable overthrow, much celebrated in the Holy Book of God.

A.M. 2770. In the (n) Moneth of *August*, a formidable Comet appeared in *Gemini*. After which followed the death

i Lib. 2. 25.

k Mede Discourse on John 10. 28. P. 27
l Hujus famis meminit Justinus Lib. 36. & Orosius Lib. 1. Cap. 8.

m Rockenbachius in libro supracitato. vid. Alsted præcogn Theol L. 2. P. 451.

n Idem.

death of that wicked Tyrant *Amene-
mos*. Also, that long and miserable
War which arose about *Helena*, and the
doleful destruction of *Troy*. Likewise
the War of the *Amazons*, with the
Thebans, was near this time.

Idem.

A.M. 2795. A Comet (b) was seen
in *Aries*, flaming for the space of 43
dayes. This was in the dayes of *Sam-
son*, at (and by) whose death all the
Lords of the Philistines, and about 3000
Men and Women were slain by the fall
of their Idol's Temple, as they were Sa-
crificing to *Dagon* their god. Histori-
ans also speak of a Comet which was ta-
ken notice of about the Year of the
World 3458, and was termed *Ceratinus*,
(p) because of its appearing crooked,
like to an Horn. Writers vary about
the præcise year, when this Comet ap-
peared. Only it is indubitable, that it
was in the dayes of *Anaxagoras* and *De-
mocritus*, who are the most antient Wri-
ters that give us any hystorical account
about Comets. There was a notable
Eclipse of the Sun, preceding that Co-
met; which *Calvisus* judgeth to be
extraordinary and supernatural. Re-
markable Providences which hapned
about that time † were; *Haman's*
bloody Plot to Massacre all the *Jews* in
one

De quo come-
ta prætorius,
Lycosthenes,
Rockenbach-
us, Eckstormi-
us, Hevelius,
&c. Scripserunt

† vid. Funcil
Chronol.

the day, together with the strange discovery and disappointment of that helth contrivance. Also, *Xerxes* his motions who put the whole World into uproar, mustering together an Army of seventeen hundred thousand Foot and fourscore thousand Horse, and a fleet consisting of above two thousand allies. Yea, *Herodotus* reporteth that his Army did at least consist of above five Millions; designing to subdue Greece. But his Navy was vanquished by *Themistocles* his great Army routed. So less then three hundred thousand soldiers under the Command of *Maronius* were all slain; *Athens* was burnt.

A.M. 3518. (Or as others compute the age of the World, An. 3537.) There was seen a fearful Comet for 75. dayes together (q) *Pliny* (r) *Plutarch*, q L.2.C.25
(s) *Aristotle*, and other ancient Writers, r In *Lysandro*.
s *Meteorologia*
speak of this Comet. *Anaxagoras* took upon him to predict, that an horrible tempest would follow. He hapned to conjecture right. There was (1) a strange Whirlwind, that took a little Rock off from a great Rock, and lifted it up on high, and carried it away through the air, until it fell down at *Egos*, a River in *Thrace*, to the amazement

Charimander
in libro de Cometis.

u Ricciolus de
Cometis.

w Aristotles in
Meteor L. 1. C. 6
Mizaldus L. 1.
Cap. 11.
Eberus, Peuce-
rus Ekstormius
& alii.

x Aristoteles
ubi supra. Se-
neca. Nat.
Qu. L. 7. C. 16.

ment of the people there, who suppe-
sed that mighty Stone to have com-
down out of Heaven. But the great
commotion attending this Comet
was, that civil war among the *Gracians*
called the *Peloponnesian war*, which con-
tinued for 27 years, until *Greece* was al-
most emptied of Inhabitants. Also,
(u) pestilential and mortal *Catarh* so
prevailed in *Athens*, as greatly to de-
populate that place. A prodigious
Earthquake hapned about a year after
this, so that a Mountain was broken in
pieces, and a City turned into an
Island.

A. M. 3537. (or as others 3553) a septentrional Comet appeared in *January* which many (w) Writers have taken notice of. That fearful slaughter of the *Athenians*, which Historians make mention of, did accompany this Prodigy. About nine years after that (x) another Comet was observed, appearing in the winter time, immediately after Sun set. At first only the stream and not the Star was seen (because of its nearness to the Sun) which was extended over a third part of the heavens, i. e. 130 degrees. It ascended to *Orion's* girdle, and there disappeared. After that, hapned that Earthquake and

eluge in *Achaia*; wherein multitudes
 perished. *Helice* and *Buris* (two fa-
 mous Cities) were lost in the Sea. It
 is about this time that *Nehemiah* built
 the walls of *Jerusalem*, and then the
 Jews were troublous, Dan. 9. 25.

A. M. 3594. There was seen in
 10, a bearded Comet, which after-
 wards changed its form and appeared
 like a Spear. The remarkable Events
 then observed, were the burning of
Isidore's Temple at *Ephesus*, and *Alex-
 ander* surnamed the Great, his Birth in
 the same day. *Ptolomæus Alorites*, kil-
 led the King, and Reigned in *Macedo-
 nia*. A miserable Destruction came
 upon *Sidon*.

Fifteen years after, there was another
 Comet, near the Equinoctial circle, (2) z Aristoteles
Sagittarius, continuing nineteen L. I. C. 7.
 years. What strange and amazing Rockenbachius.
 changes hapned in the World after that
 means of *Alexander* the Great, is
 known to all men. Of him the Pro-
 phet *Daniel* speaks, Chap. 8. 5. when he
 saith, He saw an He-goat come from the
 west, on the face of the whole Earth, and
 touched not the ground. For *Alexander*
 made speedy work in conquering the
 Nations. In the space of six years, the
 face of things all the Earth over was
 changed.

changed. The *Persian* empire brought to its period, and the third of *Danish Monarchies* then began.

a Rockenbachius

A. M. 3729. There was a Comet (*a*) appearing in *Aries*, for the space of 22 dayes. After which great War in *France* followed. *Selouchus*, the King of *Asia* and *Syria* treacherously Murdered. *Amilcor* marching with a Army into *Spain* enlargeth the Dominions of the *Carthaginians*.

b Rockenbachius *Lycophthenes. v. Joseph Antiq. Jud. L. 12. C. 3*

A. M. 3752. A Comet was seen some few dayes in *Capricorn*, and two Moneths after again in *Cancer*, for the space of 19 dayes. (*b*) Two years after this, another Comet of a stupendous magnitude appeared for eighty dayes together; this I take to be the same which some Authors place about ten years after; viz. a Comet appearing in the sign of *Pisces*, extending it self over (near upon) a fourth part of the Heavens, (*c*) and its fulgor was such as did overcome the brightness of the Sun, so as that it was seen not only in the night but also in the light day.

c Cornelius Gemma in *Cosmo. L. 1. C. 8*

Mithridates his wars, and those between *Antiochus* and *Achæus*, and the bloody Battle fought between the *Romans* and the *Carthaginians*, where *Hannibal* was overcome by *Marcellus*.

and

d *Adrubal* by the *Scipio's*; the death of the King of *Sicily* (whose Son succeeding, and carrying himself insolent- was slain) are mentioned as great events attending that Prodigy. In the second *Punic* war fifteen hundred thousand lost their lives. In *Spain*, no less than 300 Towns were destroyed.

A. M. 3789. A Comet was seen in the year appearing thirty two dayes. King *Leuchus* was poisoned, and there succeeded *Antiochus*, whom his flatterers called *Epiphanes*, but the Scripture calls him a vile Person. He raised a terrible Persecution against the Church of God, committing horrid and outrageous Cruelties, defiling the Temple, and perverting the publick worship of God *x. i. 21, 31*. He was a notable type of Antichrist, nor is it to be wondered at, if a *Star, Blaze in Heaven*, when such miseries were coming on the earth.

Rockenbachius writeth of a Comet appearing A. M. 3795 for the space of a year and three weeks together. But there must needs be some mistake in the Relation, and therefore I prætermit, and proceed unto,

A. M. 3798. (or as others 3782) when there appeared a Comet in September,

tember, presently upon an Eclipse
the Moon. After which *Persens* the
last King of *Macedonia* was overcome
by *Emilius*. Within 10 years an-
ther Comet appeared, which was at-
tended with a woful Dearth and Plague
and a long war between the *Carthag-
nians* and the *Romans*. An Army
the *Bastans* going over the Ice, it bro-
ke under them, that very few escaped with
their lives.

e *Nat. Quest.*
L. 7. C. 15.

A. M. 3819. There appeared
Comet in the sign of *Capricorn*, in ma-
nitude equalling the Sun, and with
light overcoming the darkness of the
night. Of this *Seneca* (e) and after
him many others have written. The
Prodigy was attended with the *Achaian
War*. The City of *Carthage* was ta-
ken and destroyed by *Scipio*. The City
of *Corinth* was burnt by *Mummius*.

f *Seneca ibid*

g *Lib. 37.*

About ten years after that, another
Comet appeared for the space of eight
three dayes, of which *Seneca* writes
At the first appearance it was very small
but within a few dayes it grew to a
prodigious magnitude, (f) extending
itself over the *Via Lactea*, so as was wo-
nderful to behold.

(g) *Iustin* speaketh of a Comet
whose fulgor was like that of the Su-

the tail of it being 90 Degrees in length, shining so as that all the heaven seemed to be of a light fire, which supposed to be the same with that mentioned by *Seneca*. As for Events, bloody Battles were fought between the *Romans* and the *Gauls*, wherein an infinite number of men were slain: so wars between the King of *Syria* and the King of *Egypt*. The King of *Syria* was deserted by his Souldiers, taken and slain.

A. M. 3863. (Or according to the computation of others Anno 3879) A Comet was seen in the sign of *g* *Scribentibus* *Rockenbach.* *Ebero, & alii.* *b* L. 2. C. 25.

go, continuing 94 dayes. This was it which (b) *Pliny* calleth *Terrificum*, the terrible Star. *Mithridates* died *Asia*; after which followed a bloody Civil War between *Marcellus* and *Octavius*.

A. M. (Circiter) 3900. Several (i) comets were observed as portentous of the War between *Pompey* and *Cæsar*; and of *Pompey* his fall. It is also recorded (k) that *Cæsars* death was attended with a Comet of that sort which called *Xiphias*. *i* *Testibus* *Plinio, Lucano, &c.* *k* *Mizald. L. 1. C. 9. Rockenb.*

A. M. 3920. A (l) Comet appeared in *Libra*, flaming for 95 dayes. The same *l* *Licosthenes* *Rockenbach.*

same year *Antonius* being overcome killed himself, and *Octavius Caesar* subdued the Land of *Egypt*. It is almost incredible to relate how many Millions lost their lives in those distracted times by the *Roman* sword at home and abroad.

And thus much for Comets appearing from the beginning of the World until the Incarnation of the Son of God; so far as Authors have taken notice of them.

CHAP. IV.

An Historical Account of what Blazing Stars were seen within the first five hundred Years after Christ's Incarnation, and the Notable Events which still followed them.

WE proceed to consider what Blazing Stars have appeared since our Saviours Nativity. Some mention that, which directed the *Magi* to the Town and House where Christ was born. The superstition of former ages hath pictured that Star with a Blaze pointing towards *Bethlehem*. *Tycho* and (*m*) others, have by inv

mv. Ricciolum.
de novis stellis
C. 19. P. 179.
Ec.

ible Arguments, proved that that admirable Star was not a Comet properly.

The first then which we shall take notice of, is, that which was seen, *A.D.* 13. appearing in the sign of *Aries* (*n*) n Alstedius in Chron. C. 49 for the space of 32 dayes.

*Arseruntq; toti passim minitania mundo
Lumina - -*

After which three *Roman* Legions perished; *Quintilius Varius*, was slain by the *Germans*. Upon whom the Emperor *Tiberius* maketh war.

*Cum fera ductorem Germania Varum.
Infecitq; trium legionum sanguine campos.*

A.D. 14. As *Calvisius* reckons, but according to other Chronologers *A.D.* 16. (*o*) divers Comets (or several ap-
o Suetonius.
Alsted.

pearances of the same Comet) were observed, which have been judged as portentous of the death of *Augustus Caesar*, who died not long after. Other remarkable Events attending this Comet, were, a great Mutiny in the *Roman* Army, terrible slaughters amongst the *Germans*, whole King *Arminius* was slain by his own Kinsmen: an Earthquake whereby a great part of the City of *Rome* was ruined, and an inundation through the River *Tiber's* overflowing so that many Persons & Edifices were destroyed.

D 2 *A.D.*

p Lycoſthenes.
Alſted. *encyclop*
P. 2159.

A. D. 56. A Star was ſeen in the ſign of *Cancer*, (p) blazing for the ſpace of four Moneths, directing its courſe from the North towards the Eaſt. The Emperour *Claudius* died, bloody *Nero* ſucceeded, who murdered beſides his own Mother, and his Wife, and his Maſter *Seneca*, an infinite number of holy Martyrs. The ſame Comet appeared again the next Year, ſo that *Nero's* Reign began with a blazing Star, great Commotions hapned in *Judea*, Chronologers obſerve that it was in this Year, that *Hermogenes* and *Phygellus* made woful Apoſtaſie and Schiſme in the *Aſiatick* Churches; and ſo appeared to be no other then wandering Stars, 2 *Tim.* 3. 15.

q *Seneca* Nat.
Q. L. 7. Chap.
21, 09,

r Alſtedius

A. D. 62. A Comet was ſeen flaming in the Heavens, (q) for the ſpace of fix moneths together, having its motion from the Eaſt, partly towards the Weſt, and partly towards the South (r) This appearing after *Nero's* *quinquennium*, wherein he ſeemed a good Emperour, was expired, 'tis (r) thought that it was portentous of his after unparalleld Cruelties, and moſt Tragical end.

s *Tacitus* Ro-
kenbachius.
Mizaldus. Al-
ſted.

A. D. 66. Another Comet (s) appeared

appeared for six Moneths together, in the sign of *Gemini*. After which followed prodigious Tempests, and a fearful Earth quake, whereby *Laodicea*, *Hierapolis*, and *Coloss* (famous Cities in the lesser *Asia*) were sorely afflicted. This Blazing Star was attended with a terrible Persecution, in the which the Apostles *Paul* and *Peter* were put to Death. *Rome* was set on fire by *Nero*, that Conflagration continued for six dayes together. Soon after this *Alexander* and his Followers caused great trouble among Christians in the Primitive times. He was an Antichrist, i.e. a false Christ, it is not improbable but that the Apostle *John* hath respect to him as well as to other pretended Christs, 1 *John*. 2. 18.

A D. 70. (or as others 71) A blazing Star like a flaming Sword appeared (1) for a year together. It was first observed at the time of the Jews Passover (viz. on the eighth of April) in the sign of *Virgo*. This was attended with a new Emperour, viz. *Vespasian*, with the destruction of *Jerusalem*, and the most miserable ruine of the Jewish nation, by the Sword of the *Romans*.

† Josephus de bello Judæorum. L. 7.

(2) Many other Prodigies were taken

‡ Zonaras, T. I.

D 3. notice

notice of at the same time. Armies fighting in the Air, &c. *Xephilinus* writeth that there were two prodigious Eclipses of the Moon, viz. that the Moon was obscured on the fourth, and on the seventh day; And from him *Lycofthenes* speaks to the same purpose. But *Calvisius* did by calculation find, that there were two Eclipses of the Moon this year, which were not supernatural.

m Plin. L 2.

C. 25. Suetonius. *Lycofthenes*, &c.

x Hevelius & Rockenbachius.

A.D. 76. (or 77.) A Comet called (*m*) *Acontias*, because of its appearing in the form of a Dart, was observed. The Emperour *Titus* (in the fifth year of his Consulship) described this Comet in verse. The next year another Comet was seen (or rather the same Comet appeared the second time) there followed an horrible Earth-quake in *Cyprus* and other places, whereby many Towns perished. (*x*) The next year a Comet was seen again eighty dayes. Earth-quakes followed, and a terrible Plague in *Rome*, and a remarkable Drought. When *Vespasian* the Emperour saw this Blazing Star, he joked at it, saying, it concerned the *Parthians* who had long hair, not him who was Bald. But soon after *Vespasian* himself

himself died. This Comet was attended with the Heresie of *Cerinthus* and the *Ebionites*.

I cannot find in Authors, that any Comet appeared after that, for about the space of fifty years, viz. not until the year of our Lord 138, when a Star (a) was seen blazing 39 nights together in the signs of *Aquarius* and *Pisces*. An Earthquake followed, so that the Cities of *Nicopolis* and *Cesarea* were swallowed up thereby.

z Rockenbachius

A.D. 145. (a) A Star was seen blazing in *Aquarius* six nights. An Earth-quake and a Prodigious Flood (a) *Idem* followed. *Rhodus* and other famous places were shaken after an horrendous manner. The *Valentinian* Hereticks revailed about this time.

A.D. 188. A bearded Comet (from its form called *Pogonias*) was seen. (b) Great Wars ensued in the Roman Empire. The Temple of peace (so called) was suddenly burnt down. The Capitol was struck with Lightning and set on fire, the neighbouring Edifices wherein was a famous Library) was consumed. The next year the City of Rome was afflicted with a sore Famine. About this time the *Britans* losing their

b Herodian L.
1. Lavater.

King *Lucius* fell into dissensions amongst themselves, and so became prey to the *Romans*.

c *V. Hevelii*

Cometog. C. 12

P. 805.

A.D. 195. in the dayes of the Emperour *Severus* (c) a Star was seen blazing for many dayes together. Which was then looked upon as an *Omen* of approaching *Miseries*. About that time there were great wars between the *Romans* and the *Parthians*; Also lamentable contentions and schismes amongst *Christians* about the observation of *Easter*. The Bishop of *Rome* took upon him to excommunicate those that were not of his mind about that matter whereby a world of sin and trouble was occasioned, and way made for *Persecution*. Not long after this the *Originists* and those that would be called *Apostolici* occasioned great troubles in the Churches.

d *Calvisius*
Lycoſthenes.

A.D. 217. (d) A Comet appeared in the sign of *Pisces* for 18 dayes. This was attended with the Death of *Caracalla*. The Emperour *Antonius* visiting the City of *Alexandria*, desired to see the Youth therein, and giving a sign to his Souldiers caused them to be cruelly slain. The *Romans* made great slaughter amongst the *Goths*. The

King

Concerning Comets.

43

Parthia came with a great Army against the *Romans*. The Emperour ed.

After this time, no Blazing Star appeared (or however none is mentioned by any Hyftorian, that I have met with) for near upon an hundred years. The next was (e) A. D. 306. soon after which *Constantius Chlorus* (the Father of great *Constantine*) died at *York* in *England* (then called *Britain*.) The blazing Star was attended with the most bloody and cruel Persecution that ever was, viz. that under *Dioclesian*, who hoped he had (according to his design) destroyed all that did bear the Name of Christ throughout the Earth. This year did *Miletius* his Schism happen. Within a few years *Arius* began to disseminate his Pestiferous Doctrine, and Monatisme put the *African* Churches to an unhappy Blaze.

A. D. 323. A Comet appeared (f) the sign of *Virgo*. After which the *Arian* Heresie prevailed exceedingly, so that the Christian world (as *Jerome* speaks) sighed to see it self become an *Arian*. The memorable wars between *Constantine* and *Licinius* hapned about that time, which issued in wonderful changes

e Scribente
Rockenbachio

f Peucerus de
divinatiene. P.
359. Alst. &c.

changes, the whole Empire being turned upside down. The marvellous things spoken of in the twelfth Chapter of the *Revelation* were now accomplished.

A. D. 337. A stupendous Comet and terrible to behold, was seen in the sign of *Aries* (g) continuing for the space of six Months: Immediate after which followed the death of *Constantine*, surnamed the great, whose death made way for great Divisions in the *Roman* Empire, and infinite misery upon all Christendome. His Son *Constantius* being an *Arian*, quickly became a Persecutor.

A. D. 363. A Blazing Star (h) was seen and that not only in the night but in the day time. This was attended with *Julian* the Apostate his war against the *Persians*, and with the prodigious death of that great Apostate. About two years after that, another Comet was seen in *Aries*, continuing eleven weeks. A most prodigious Earthquake followed (i) which was perceived (as Historians affirm) in all parts of the world. The like to this Earthquake was never known. The waves of the Sea were rould out of their channel and Ships left hanging on the tops of

Orosius L.

C. 19.

Eutropius L. 10

Alstedius Sc.

b Eckstormius

ex Ammiano

L. 25.

D. Christiani

Hevelius

Sc.

Alst. ubi supra

in Encycloped.

p. 2165

Calvisius in

Chronol.

House

uses; & a fearful Inundation, so that
 ny Cities, and innumerable Souls pe-
 shed by those Calamities. Many
 rsons about Constantinople were kil-
 l by an Hail-storm. The Macedo-
 in Heresie caused great troubles and
 turbances in the Church of Christ.
 he Jews attempted to rebuild a Tem-
 ple at Jerusalem, but fire came from
 heaven, and utterly consumed their
 foundation. The cruel Persecution
 nder Valens began the next year, so
 at the Church was in great danger of
 eing carried away by that flood, as
 hn foretold in the Revel. Ch. 12. 15.
 .D. 383. (or as some Historians A.D.
 393.) A Comet was seen of that sort
 which is called (k) *Xiphias* in respect of
 s appearing like a Sword, bigger and
 gher then the Morning Star, which
 as then where this Comet appeared,
 iz in *Libra*, continuing for the space of
 our Months, viz. from the beginning
 f May to September. Its motion was
 owards *Ursa Major*, in the midst of
 hich Constellation it disappeared.
 his was looked upon as portentous of
 Eugenius his Invasion. The Battle
 ough between *Theodosius* & *Eugenius*
 as a very memorable Providence,
 inasmuch

& Rockenba-
 chius. Alstedius
 us, &c.

Niceph. L.
 12. C. 33. 38.

A Discourse

inasmuch as upon *Theodosius* his Praetors, God sent a Storm which beat back the Arrows of the Enemy into their own faces, the Stars in their courses fighting against them. Some mention *Valentinian's* strangulation, and a prodigious overflowing of the River *Nile* as direful consequents of this Comet. The *Helvidians*, *Priscillianists*, and other Hereticks who caused great troubles amongst Christians began this Year.

Peucerus apud Tycho
Tom. I. P. 619
625.

A.D. 389. A Blazing Star appeared from the North, being in the sign of *Gemini*, continuing for twenty dayes. Its Magnitude and brightness equal to *Lucifer*. In form like unto a Pillar. *Proclus* observed this Comet to be higher then the Planet *Jupiter*. One remarkable event which hapned after it, was, a most prodigious Hail storm continuing without intermission for twenty dayes together. Great Commotion and changes in *France* by reason of *Marcomers* invasion hapned not long after this. Also wars between *Theodosius* and *Maximus*.

Lavater ex
Sozom. Hist.
Eccl. L. 8. C. 4.
Claudianus in
Poemate de
bello Getico

A.D. 402. (circiter) (m) An exceeding bright Comet in form like a Sword was seen. After this *Gaius* made

made an attempt upon *Constantinople*.
Julian waging war with the *Goths*,
 overcame them. The Emperour *Ar-*
rian died. An Army consisting of
 less then two hundred thousand
 barbarians under *Radagiso* made a
 fearful irruption upon the *Roman Em-*
pire. Now was the first Trumpet
 which *John* speaks of in the *Apocalyps*)
 sounded. These terrible shakings in
 the *Roman Empire* being fitly set forth
 that of a storm of Hail, and Fire,
 and Blood, *Rev. 8. 7.* as Mr. *Mede* in-
 terpreteth. A great Persecution was
 raised against the Christians in *Persia*.
 So the Persecution raised by the *Do-*
mits in *Africa*, was within a year
 two of this time.

A.D. 409 There was an amazing
 Eclipse of the Sun, so that the Stars
 were seen in the day time. This was
 ended with a fearful Comet appear-
 ing like a Sword in the sign of *Virgo*,
 blazing for the space of four months ^{see Nicoph. L. 1.}
 (2, June, July, August, September.) 13. C. 36. A.D.
 the greatest Calamities followed that
 had been heard of in the World. All
 Europe, a great part of *Asia*, and *Afri-*
 ca was overwhelmed with Judgments.
 More Drought, and Famine and Pesti-
 lence,

A Discourse

lence, and wars amongst the Nations
swept away an infinite number of Millions.
Rome was taken by *Alaricus* the *Goth*
who set up whom he pleased as Emperour
there. Now did the second *Angel* found the
Trumpet, and the *Roman* Empire suffer
a violent death, and therefore resembled
unto a *Sea* made bloody by the fall of a
great Mountain in a flame, as the foremen-
tioned *Interpreter* doth expound, *Rev.* 8.8.

• *Herlicius.*
• *Alfredius,* &
• *Alii.*

A.D. 418. A Comet was seen in
Libra, in the Moneth of *September*.
Great Sedition and Commotions followed
throughout *Italy*, and in *Spain*. The
Africans prepared a formidable Fleet
and marched towards *Rome*. Not long
after this, Famous *Hierom* died. The
Pestilent Heresie of *Pelagius* occasioned
much trouble in the Churches.

• *Mercellinus.*
• *Eckstormius*
• *Schoffero.*
• *Hevelius.*

A.D. 423. An horrible Comet was
seen flaming: (p) Immediately upon
which the Emperour *Honorius* died.
Castinus with an Army cometh upon
the *Vandals* and maketh great slaughter
in *Spain*. The *Scots* and *Picts* grievously
infest the *Britains*.

A.D. 423. This Year upon a great Eclipse of the Moon, a Comet appeared, (q) after which Prodigious showers of Blood were rained down upon *Tholous* in *France* for a whole day together. A terrible Persecution was raised against the professors of the truth in *Africa*, by *Genferichs*. *Theodericus* the King of the *Visigoths* warring against *Attila*, was slain.

q *Lycofthenes*
Lavater *Alfred*

A.D. 448. A Comet was seen in the sign of *Leo*, continuing many dayes. (r) There followed a Prodigious Earth quake in the *East*. *Attila* oppressed and destroyed a great part of *Italy*. The *Venetians* perished by a Flood. The *Eutichean* Heresie began to prevail.

r *Herlicius*
Eckstormius

A.D. 454. (circiter) There were divers appearances of a Blazing Star which was attended with Earth- quakes. (c) The Emperour died. *Attila* after he had destroyed seventy Cities in the *East*, and conquered the Northern parts, came with five hundred thousand Souldiers, and making fearful Devastations in *Germany*, was himself slain in a bloody Battle with *Atius*.

s *Sigebertus*
Funccius, *Alfred*

Actius. Rome was taken and spoiled
by *Genfericus*.

zavater, Zy-
costhenes, Al-
stedius.

Historians make mention of two
ther Comets observed in this Century
The one (*z*) A.D. 450. which was fo-
lowed with a sore Pest amongst mis-
erable Mortals. The other A.D. 480.
After which great troubles were rais-
ed by *Arian* Hereticks. *Guadamond* the
King of the *Vaudals* became the Au-
thour of a great Persecution.

CHAP. V.

Of Comets which appeared between the Year 500 and 1000, with some remarkable Events.

A. D. 519. A Bearded Comet appeared 26 dayes, in the East, pointing westward. (u) After which there was a wonderful Earth-quake, whereby many (not only persons but) whole Cities perished.

A. D. 533. A formidable Comet appeared the Moneth of December, in the sign of Sagittarius. (w) This was followed with an Earth-quake. A popular tumult in Constantinople. A plague at Antioch and in other places. The Huns rule troubles in Europe.

A. D. 541. A notable Comet appeared on after Day. (x) There followed an universal Earth quake in the which Epidamon, Corinth and Nazerbum, did above other places suffer damage. Totilas overcame Demetrius in a Sea-fight, took several Cities and Countries. The memorable changes wherein Belisarius was concerned, happened about this time. Totila the King of the Goths is called *Flagellum dei* Gods Scourge. He raised a cruel Persecution against the Christians which were at this time in Italy.

Calvisius ex Cedreno, Alsted. w Calvisius Prætorius, led. x Lycosthenes, Rockenbachius.

A.D. 555. A Comet in the form of a Lance or Spear was seen in the North, pointing Westward. (1) After which Rome was taken by Totila. The Huns wasted Francia and Thuringia.

A.D. 586. A Comet appeared for a Moneth (2). It is observed, that this Comet was attended with the death of many Princes. And the War between Mauritius and the Persians. Also, fearful inundation, and the Plague in Italy happened not long after.

A.D. 594. A formidable Blazing Star appeared in January, for a Moneth together, and was seen both in the morning and in the evening. (3) After this, Italy was afflicted with Armies of Locusts. A sore Drought, Famine, and the Sword were the woful attendants of this Prodigious.

A.D. 600. (circiter) A Comet Horrendous to behold, appeared six Moneths together. (4) Mauritius (the Emperour) was by the Bishop of Romes instigation Murdered by Phocas. Great contentions were kindled between the Bishops of Rome and Constantinople. The former, was now declared to be the universal head of the Church. Ever since this time the Bishops of Rome have

by Funccius. Prætorius. Alstedius habet Annum 550. Lavater. Rockenbachius. Fascic temporum. Alstedius & habent annum. 589 a Diac. L. 4. C. 4. Lavater Alstedius. b. cephorus, L. 18. C. 35. Rockenbachius. Alstedius. bc

been no better then Blazing Stars. Four Years after (c) this, another Comet was seen in the Moneths of *April* and *May*, & again in *November* & *December*, † Not long after which *Cosroes* the King of *Persia* grievously infested the *Roman* Empire, He delivered ninety thousand Christians into the hands of the *Jews*, to be by them with wicked hands slain and murdered.

A.D. 625. Another Comet appeared. About this time † *Mahomet* began to diffuse his pestiferous Doctrine. He had an apostate Monk to help him in composing his diabolical Religion, whereby much of that part of the World, which had been enlightened with the Sun of Righteousness, was overwhelmed again with the darkness of Infidelity. He is therefore fitly set forth in the *Apocalypse*, by the type of a Star falling to the Earth, & a smoke arising therefrom, whereby the Sun & the Air was darkened; And it is not to be wondered at, if so great a Plague to the World as *Mahometism*, is, was preceded and attended with Blazing Stars, as in the after Relations will appear. Never was the dominion of any Nation spread so far, and in so short a time as that of the *Sarazens*. In the space of about four-score Years there was added to the Diabolical

c *Zycoſthenes*. † viz. Anno. 610. ut habet *Aſted*. in *Chro-*
ſot Cap. 28. † *Calviſius*, *Hevelius*, & alii in annum 615.
 hunc Cometam tranſponere videntur.

Kingdome of *Mahomet*, *Palestina*, *Syria*, both *Armenias*, almost all the lesser *Asia*, *Persia*, *India*, *Egypt*, *Numidia*, all *Barbary*, *Portugal*, *Spain*, a great part of *Italy*, as also *Sicily*, *Candy*, *Cyprus*, &c. Though many of these places were not subjugated to *Mahomet*, until the next Century. In a word, the *Sarazens* are not without reason thought to be intended by the first *wo Trumpet*, (d) Prophesied of in the *Revelation*. Those tormenting *Scorpions* proved a bitter Plague to the *Christian World*, more especially for the space of five propheticall Moneths (*b. e. 15 Years*;) and the times were then so woful, as that men did in those dayes seek *Death*, but could not find it, *Rev. 9. 6.*

A. D. 633. A Blazing Star in form of a Sword standing towards the South appeared for a Moneth. (e) This was attended with an Earthquake for thirty dayes together. About this time the *Sarazens* subjugated *Jerusalem*, *Damascus*, and all *Syria*.

A. D. 676. (*Circiter*) A Comet was seen divers times. (f) Once it appeared for three Moneths together, being seen in the Morning in *August*, rising in the *East*. In appearance like unto a flaming Pillar. The Plague and Famine followed, also a great Drought, so that it rained

du. Mede in locum. e *Funccius*, *Lavater*, *Allsted*, *Sigebert*. f *Sigebert*, *Hist Eccles.* Cent. 7. C. 13.

not (g) in some places for the space of three years together, *The Sarazens* came with a great fleet into *Sicily*, and brake it upon the *Roman Empire* like a flood. Pope *Donas* died this year.

A D. 684. A Comet was seen in the Moneths of *December*, *January*, and *February*. It was observed in the day time as well as in the night, near the seven Stars, shining with a dim light not unlike to that of the Moon when covered with a thin Cloud. (h) After this, most horrible Thunder-storms, Plagues, Famine, and Floods followed, to the amazing ruine of mortals. Also the direful flames of *Vesuvius*, brake forth to the no small terrour and confusion of the Countrey adjacent.

A.D. 729. Some (i) write of two Comets appearing this year at the same time, viz. in the Moneth of *January*. The one in the Morning before the Sun, the other in the evening after Sun set. But others do more probably conceive that by reason of its great declination, the same Comet appeared both in the morning and in the evening, (k) A terrible Plague followed in many places, especially at *Constantinople* in which City three hundred thousand were swept away by that Besom of Destruction. The *Sarazens* in-

g Bellarmine Chronol. in Anno 678. Alstedius Chron. ap. 49. & in Encycloped. P. 2171. b Platina in vita Benedicti. Lavater, Alsted, Ricciolus. i Lycosthenes, Lavater almerius, Alstedius. k Ricciolus, Appianus, & alii.

vaded Spain. The Longobards fell upon Italy, besieged Rome it self. † Woful Tumults and Schisms were amongst professed Christians about the worshipping of Images. Not long after this the Christians under the conduct of Charles Martell slew above three hundred thousand Sarazens.

A. D. 745. A Comet appeared in the latter end of this year. (l) Various Diseases and much Sickness was observed to follow, in special a Plague of three years continuance miserably depopulated Sicily, the Mediterranean Islands, and all Greece.

A. D. 763. A Blazing Star appeared for the space of ten dayes in the East. (m) After that in the West twenty one dayes. Another Comet was seen about two years after this. Remarkable Events attending these Prodigies, were, the Turks breaking in upon Armenia; an intollerable cold Winter, and after that as fiery a Summer, and a very afflictive Drought.

A. D. 814. A most strange kind of Comet was observed in the Moneth of November. (n) Both the Light and the Figure of it was amazing to behold. It appeared like two Moons meeting

† Hospinian *de Origine imaginum* P. 59. v. Mordens Geographia, P. 33. l. Funccius, Hevelius, Alsted, Prætorius. m. *Hist. Eccles.* Cent. 8. Cap. 23. n. Camerarius *Append. Chronol.* Niceph. P. 54. Alsted.

and departing, and sometimes like a Man without
 a Head. The principal Event attending this
 Prodigy was the death of *Charles* the Great. The
 Emperour himself was astonished at this Comet,
 (if we may call it a Comet) supposing it to por-
 tend his own Death, and great changes to follow
 in his Dominions.

A.D. 837. A Comet (o) appeared in April in
 the sign of *Virgo*, and in the space of 25 dayes
 passed through *Leo*, *Cancer*, and *Gemini*, until it
 came into the head of *Taurus*, and there disap-
 peared under the feet of *Auriga*. The next year
 another (or the same again) Comet appeared
 in Autumn, in *Libra*, it was seen in the morning
 before Sun rise, and of an horrendous aspect.
 The Spring following another (or the same Co-
 met) appeared in *Aries*, it was seen in the E-
 vening.

A.D. 842. A Comet was observed in *Aqua-*
rius. (p)

A.D. 844. A Comet was observed by *Albu-*
masar to be above *Venus*. As for the remarkable
 Events attending these Comets, thus frequently
 appearing in so short a space, there are many
 memorable passages noted by Historians as hap-
 pening about this time. e.g. The death of the
 Emperour *Ludovicks Pius*, and of *Pipin* King of

o Calvisius, Hevelius. p Funccius, Eckstormius. *Car-*
lande subtil. L.4o.

France. The *Sarazens* came upon *Italy* like a flood, not leaving *Rome* it self untouched; many of them perished in the waters as they returned into *Africa*. (q) An unhappy War brake out between *Lotharius* and his two Brethren *Lewis* and *Charles*. A mighty Army was brought into the Field, *Lotharius* was worsted. The greatest part of the Nobility and Flower of the *French* Nation was slain. * Not long after this in *Germany*, Famine prevailed so as that the Parents did eat their own Children, and sometimes Children their Parents.

A.D. 868. A Comet appeared (r) which was attended with a great Earth-quake. The next year the Emperour *Lotharius* died. The *Danes* cruelly wasted *England*, so did the *Slavi* do in *Batavia* at the same time. *Michael* the Emperour of the East, was deprived of the use of his reason, one of the meanest of his Servants killed him, and became an Emperour, between whom and the *Sarazens* there were great conflicts. The *Greek* and *Latine* Churches were at variance, and the *Patriarch* of *Constantinople* was deposed.

A.D. 874. A Blazing Star with long and fiery Beams appeared in the beginning of *April*, continuing for a Moneth, being seen in the day as well as in the night (s) The next year a Comet whose

q *Imperial History*. * *Alsted Chronol.* Cap 25. r *Lavater*. *Alsted & alii*. s *Hector Boethius* L. 10. Fol. 208. *Alstedius*, *Rockenbachius* & *alii* habent Annum 876.

colour was more red then useth to be, the tail
 very long, was seen in the Moneth of *June*. The
 Plague and Famine followed. The cruel *Danes*
 made more fearful slaughters in *England*, until
 they got the Land into their possession. *Ethel-
 red* the King of *Scotland*, and the Emperour *Lewis*
 the second died this year. The *Germans* invade
France with an Army. *Italy* was again sorely af-
 fected with the *Sarazens*.

A D. 882. A Comet with a long tail was seen
 in the Moneth of *January* (1) within a few dayes
 after which *Lewis* the King of *Germany* died, al-
 so the King of *France* died that year. The *Nor-
 mans* fell upon *Germany*, and burned the famous
 city of *Trevirs*. There was this year an attempt
 to poyson the Pope (*John* the 8th.) but the poy-
 son not being strong enough, one took an hammer
 and knocked out his brains.

A.D. 902, A Comet appeared in the moneth
 of *May*, for forty dayes. (u) The *Hungarians*
 fell with a great Army upon *Italy*, destroying fa-
 mous Cities. And in *Lombardy* they laid all waste
 before them. The *Sarazens* spoiled *Greece*, and
 the Islands of the *Mediterranean* Sea. *Lewis* the
 King of the *Longobards* being taken Prisoner by
Fredericus (the Popes Emperour) had his eyes
 put out. Soon after this *Donaldus* the King of
Scotland died.

Calvisius, Lycosthenes, Alstedius. u Alstedius habet
 annum 900, alii vero annum 904. Calvisius.

A.D.

A.D. 912. A red fiery Comet appeared the sign of *Capricorn*. (w) After this the *Hungarians* caused woful Devolutions in *German*. There was also a great inundation of Waters in *Saxony*. The Emperour *Lewis* the second having ill success in his Wars, died with grief, *Alexander* the Emperour of the East, was taken ill as he was playing at Ball; the next day Blood issuing out of all parts of his Body died. *Anastasius* the Pope, and *Abdal* the *Sarazens* King died this year also.

A.D. 942: A Comet appeared in the Month of *November* continuing for about fourteen dayes (x) There followed Civil Wars in *Italy*. A great Sedition and Rebellion in *France*. The *Turks* invaded *Thrace*. *Constantine* the King of *Scotland* betook himself to a Monastery. There was great Mortality of all sorts of living Creature and some parts of the World were afflicted with a sore Famine.

A.D. 944. A Comet appeared which was of marvellous magnitude near *Cassiopea*, with fiery Beams issuing from it. (y) The Plague, Floods, and Famine followed.

A.D. 975. A fiery Blazing Star was seen the Month of *August*, continuing for eight

w *Lycosthenes*, *Hermannus*. *Quidam habent annum* 908. *Mizaldus habet annum* 913. x *Eckstornius*, *Alstedius*, *Calvisius*. y *Lycosthenes*, *Lavater*, &c.

months together. (2) The Emperour Otto, devously wasted *Bohemia*, which injuries were avenged by the Duke of *Bavaria*. *Zimisca* the Emperour was poysoned. *Culinus* the King of *Scotland*, *Albaca* the King of *Corduba* in *Spain* died.

A.D. 984. A Blazing Star was seen. (a) An Earth quake, Wars, Plague, Famine followed, the Emperour and the Pope died.

CHAP. VI.

Continuance of the History of Comets, with the Events attending them unto the Year 1200.

A.D. 1000. An horrendous Comet was seen appearing in the Month of *December*, about 9th P.M. (b) There followed a most terrible Earth quake. And great Wars between the Emperour of *Constantinople* and the *Bulgarians*. Otto the Emperour killed *Crescentius* who was then the principal man in civil power at *Rome*, whose Widow gave the Emperour a pair of Gloves infected with Poyson, which proved his Death. *Ekfard* the Duke of *Saxony* put in for the Imperial Crown, but he was resisted by the States of

a Calvisius. *a* Lycosthenes, Alstedius. *b* Wolfius ex Chronol. Sax. Alstedius, Calvisius, Usher de statu Eccles. 163. P. 59. the

the Empire, banished, and the next year killed. *England* was grievously infested by the cruel *Danes*. In *Scotland* the fish died in the waters, as that they were in great multitudes cast up on the shore, putrifying and stinking, that the air was corrupted, and sickness followed. Also grievous Famine attended this Comet, and a prodigious Drought, so as that both Men and Cattle died of thirst, most of the great Rivers in *Europe* might be waded over.

A D. 1005. A Blazing Star horrible to behold was seen flaming in the Heaven in the (c) Spring time, for the space of thirteen dayes. And (a) again in *October*. There followed a most fearful Plague continuing for three years. In some places whilst the living were burying the dead, they drew their last breath, and were thrown into the Grave with those whom they intended to leave there. Many whole Cities were utterly laid waste thereby. And the Villages were emptied of their Inhabitants, so as that the Cattle belonging to them had none to own them or look after them. Above half the Inhabitants of *Germany* were swept away with that Besom of Destruction. A War also between the Emperour of *Germany* and the *Polanders* followed this Comet. The Duke of *Lorain* (who was the last of *Carolus Magnus* his

e Prætorius, d Lycosthenes, Sigebertus, Calvisius.

Posterity

terity.) died. *Baldwin* the *Earl of Flanders* took up arms against his Uncle *Godfried* Duke of *Lotharing* whom the Emperour had constituted Succour to the Duke of *Lorain*. About this time there were great tumults and blood shed in *Germany*, occasioned by the Emperours imposing *cingardus* as Arch-bishop of *Triers*, whereas *elbert* was before chosen, and the Duke of *Bavaria* engaged in his quarrel against the Emperour. A D. 1009. A Southern Comet terrible to behold was seen in the latter end of *May*. (e) An unhappy Civil War in *Germany* followed. In the Moneth of *August*, a great fleet of *Danes* landed in *England*, and cruelly destroyed the Inhabitants of the Sea coast. This year also Pope *John* 18. descended to his own place, whose Successors since were * *Peter Hogs Snout*, being ashamed of his Swinish Name (though not of his Swinish nature) he called himself *Sergius*; ever since which, it hath been the fashion for those that arrive at the Popedome to have a new name given them. The next year the Duke of *Saxony* died. The *Sarazens* destroyed that most sumptuous Church which the Christians had built in *Jerusalem*, and burned down many *Monasteries* and *Religious Houses*. The *Normans* made woful havoc in the *Netherlands*, burning the Cities of

e Ricciolus ex Cardano. Hist. Eccles. Cent. 11. Cap. 13.
Petrus Bucca Porci.

Thile, Utrecht, &c. The† Plague swept away multitudes in many parts of the World. A great Inundation hapned, by reason whereof *Flanders* some thousands were drowned.

A.D. 1017. A Comet in form like a Beam, appeared in the sign of *Leo*, continuing for the space of four Moneths. (f) This was attended with Wars between the *Danes* and the *Swedes*. At the Pope set the *Normans* and the *Greeks* together by the ears. The Bishop of *Utrecht* took arms against the Earl of *Holland*. The *Jews* in *Italy* were exposed to great miseries, because (Historians relate) they were seen Mocking, Scourging, and Crucifying our Lord Christ's effigie. In some parts of the World the Plague rag'd, This year also, the Duke of *Austria* died, and the Duke of *Bulgaria* was slain. *France* it rained Blood.

A.D. 1031. Another (g) Comet appeared. *France* was embroiled in civil Wars. Great mutations followed in *Burgundy*, by reason of the death of their King, which put an end to the Kingdom after it had continued for the space 144 Years. *Odo* (the King of *Burgundy* his Successors Son) put in for the Crown, but *Conrad* (the Emperour) waged War upon the *Burgundians* and deposed *Odo*. The *Vandals* fell upon the *El*

† Alsted Chron. ubi de mirabilibus dei & in encyclop.
2178. f Herlicius, Mizaldus & alii. g Glaber, Calvinus

fire, laying waſt above an hundred Villages, and carrying away many thouſands of Captives. The *Sarazens* burnt down many Towns and Cities in *ſyria*. Alſo, with no leſs then a thouſand Gallies they fell upon the maritime Iſlands. (b) It is moreover observable, that a Flood, and Plague, and Famine did attend this Blazing Star.

A.D. 1038, A Comet was ſeen. (k) This Year *Conrad* the Emperour being in *Parma*, The people proved tumultuous & ſeditious, the event of which was, many of the Citizens were deſtroyed, and the City was burnt. A great Battle was fought between the Emperour of the Eaſt, and the *Sarazens*, who having civil diſcords among themſelves were overcome. The King of *Caſtell* ſubdued the *Mores*, whoſe King was killed. The King of *Hungaria* died this year. *Pandolph* was by the Emperour ejected out of his Principality, (l) *Theſſalonica* and other places were grievouſly afflicted with a Famine. The next Year ſeveral Princes expired; and the Emperour died ſuddenly.

A.D. 1042. A Comet was ſeen the ſixth of *October*, continuing all that Moneth with long flaming Locks, having its Progreſs from the Eaſt towards the Weſt. (n) *Maniatus* falling out with the Emperour, ſought to get the Imperial

b Alſtedius. l D Chriſtian. Alſtedius. & Calviſius.
Beroſus. n Cedrenus Lycolthenes. Calviſius.

Crown upon his own head, for which end he betook himself to the *Bulgarians*, and obtained a Victory over the Imperial Army. Nevertheless he was himself mortally wounded, and soon after died. Also, the *Servians* rebelled against the Eastern Emperour, who lost forty thousand of his Souldiers in endeavouring to subdue them. It was in this year, that *Hardecanute*, (c) who then Reigned in *England*, after he had barbarously caused his Brother *Harold* to be dug out of his Grave; as he was Feasting, died suddenly of an Apoplexy. *Alfred* succeeding in the Kingdome, died within a few Moneths. *Michael* the Emperour of the *East*, after he had Reigned four Moneths removed his Queen *Zoes* putting her into a Monastery, whereupon the multitude made a tumult, pursuing the Emperour with stones, forcing him to set the Queen at liberty, and then took him and put out his eyes, and sent him away into a Monastery, and another person married *Zoes* and became Emperour. * This year a Famine began, which lasted seven years.

A.D. 1058. A Comet was seen. (7) The King of *Poland* died. A Famine in that Countrey followed. *Isaacus* (q) the Emperour as he was going by water to *Constantinople*, was smitten with a flash of Lightning, which did so astonish him, a

o Polydor, Virgil. * Alsted Chron. Cap. 25. p. Funicus, Alsted. q Calvinus.

that he laid down his Robes, and resigning his Crown unto one that was no way related to him, betook himself to a religious House, where of an Emperour he became a Porter.

A.D. 1066. An amazing Comet was seen by the whole World. (r) It appeared first in the beginning of *May*, and continued for the space of forty dayes. The body of it was as big as the Moon when at the full, but as it began to have a stream; that increasing, the body of the Star decreased. Authors moreover affirm that another Blazing Star (or the same again) did appear in the two following years. (r) As for remarkable Events attending this Prog^{ress}, they were such as these. Great Wars in many places of the World. e.g. In *Asia*, between the *Christians* and the *Sarazens*. In *Europe*, between the Emperour and the *Vandals*. The King of *Norway*, with a thousand Ships invaded *England*; He cruelly wasted the Land, murdering above a thousand of the Clergy, but was in Battle overcome by the King of *England*, and slain. In the latter end of the year *William* the Duke of *Normandy* (commonly though improperly called the Conquerour) came into *England*, there was a bloody battle fought between him & *Harold*, then King of *England*, wherein *Harold* was slain, after which the Land became Subject to the *Normans*. Also, a

Spondanus, Calvisius, s. Alstedius.

E

gre. 2

great Drought, Plague, and Famine attend these Blazing Stars.

A.D. 1071. An Oriental Comet appeared the Morning for twenty five dayes. (1) The stream long and flaming. Great Seditions and Commotions in *Holland* followed. *Spain* flamed with War, the three Sons of *Ferdinand* striving for Dominion, until *Sanctius* overcame his two Brethren but was himself the next year treacherously slain and his Brother *Alonsus* was brought out of a Monastery to wear a Crown. The *Saxons* rebelled. Great Contentions arose between the Emperour and the Pope, until at last the Pope caused the imperial Majesty to ly down under his feet. *Diogenes* (the Emperour of the East) had wars with the *Turks*. His Army was betrayed by his Son in Law *Andronicus*, so was he taken by the *Turks*, who after they had treated him with great civility, gave him his liberty again but *Andronicus* made a Prisoner of him and caused his eyes to be put out, not using any Medicines for his healing, so that worms bred in his eye holes, whereby he died miserably.

The latter end of this, and the beginning of the next Century, was famous for the appearance of Comets with an unwonted frequency. For good (u) Historians relate concerning *A.D.* 1096, 97, 98, 99, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1109, 1110, 1113. that a Blazing Star was seen

t *Prætorius*, *Alstedius*. u *Quæ vide citatos apud Heyn*
them in *Cometographia*. L. 12.

every one of these years. It would fill a volume to speak particularly and fully concerning the miseries of these doleful times. In *Syria* a Flood hapned, whereby innumerable thousands were drowned. Famine, and the Plague raged throughout almost the whole Earth. In (*w*) *Germany* the Pope stirred up the *Saxons* against their woful Emperour *Henry V.* There were no less than five bloody engagements, wherein the Lives of many famous Princes were lost, and Rivers of Blood were spilt upon the ground. But the most remarkable and great concern attending these iterated blazing Stars, was the *Holy War* (as it is to be called) which lasted for many years, and proved most unhappy to the whole Christian world.

A.D. 1132. A Comet of horrendous magnitude appeared in the Moneth of *October.* (*x*) The *Swedes* and *Danes* revolt from their Emperour which caused great troubles and commotions in those Countries. The Earl of *Holland* falling upon *Frisia* made woful desolations there. *Carisbone* was burnt down to the ground. There were also great Commotions in *Sicily* this year.

A.D. 1145. A Comet appeared continuing a Moneth, being of a bright and fiery colour. Which was attended with great troubles between the *Armenians* and the *Turks.* In *Hassia* Alsted ubi supra. *x* Hist. Eccles. Cent. L. 2. C. 12. Bunsen. *y* Eckstornius. *Paris* Hist. Angl. P. 77. Calvinus.

the Nobles rebelled. *Saxony* flamed with war. *Poland* the King and his Br thren fell out, which troubles issued in that unhappy Princes being forced to fly out of his own Countrey, and die in exile. It was in this year, that a tumult hapned in *Rome*, some body (not known who) threw a stone, which hit the Pope (*Lucius II.*) by which blow that Blazing Star died. The next year, the new Pope was driven from his Seat by the tumultuous *Romans*. On the twenty second *May* there was an extream Frost, so that both Vines and Trees were killed by it.

A.D. 1165. There appeared two Blazing Stars at the same time. (2) The one in the South and the other in the North. Remarkable events in this year were the death of *Malcom* the King of *Scotland*. Troubles and great Commotions both in the upper and in the lower *Germany*. The *Sulden* of *Egypt* was murdered, which caused great Commotions in those parts of the World. (a) In *Sicily* there was an unexpected inundation of waters for three dayes together, so as that twelve thousand Souls perished in that flood. The next year was attended with great troubles in *Spain*, and in *Hungaria*. Also *Bavaria*, and *Suevia* were miserably wasted. Presently after the appearance of these Blazing Stars (the ver

2 *Hector Boethius*, Hist. Scot. Lib. 13, Fol. 21.
 2 *gerius*. a *Calvisius*.

next year as some Hystorians (*b*) relate) the *Pe-*
sts fell upon the poor *Waldenses* with bloody fury
 as that, ere this Persecution ended, in *France* a-
 ne they barbarously slew no less then ten hun-
 dred thousand Souls. It was was now manifest
 at the *Pope* (succesively taken) is the *Anti-*
rist; so that *Daniel's* numbers (mentioned,
chap. 12. Ver. 11, 12, seem then to be expired.

CHAP. VII.

Further Account of Comets, appearing from the
Year of our Lord 1200. unto the Year 1500.
with the most observable Events attending them.

A D. 1200. A Comet appeared in 15 of
Scorpio. Its motion was contrary to the
 der of the *signs* in the *Zodiack*. (*c*) It was of
 otund figure, and in magnitude three times
 ger then the morning Star, giving as much
 ht as a fourth part of the Moon useth to do.
 is year was attended with Commotions in *Al-*
a, and almost all the upper *Germany*. There
 re also great mutations amongst the *Vascons*,
 ose Kingdome was swallowed up and divided
 the Kings of *Castell* and *Arragon*. *Philip* the

b Vide *Mede de numeris Danielis*. P. 44. *c* *Cardanus*
Faly Ben Rodoan. *Calvisius*.

King of *France* was excommunicated by the *Pope*. He at first made light of the *Popes* Bull, ejected the Bishops who adhered to the *Popes* interest. But the next year, being afraid lest the *Pope* should cause tumults and miseries in his Kingdom, he complied with him. The *Bohemians* and *Thuringians* had bloody Contests the next Year.

A.D. 1211. A Comet was seen in the Month of *May*, near to the *Arctick Pole*, continuing in the space of 47 days, in the evening the Comet pointed eastward, and in the morning westward. (a) Soon after which the *Tartars* (who were before an unknown Nation) made a doleful irruption upon *Poland*. The *Russians* coming in for their succour, were cut off by a lamentable slaughter. There were Wars between the *Turks* and the *Moors*. The *Sarazens* betaking themselves to their ships were vast multitudes of them drowned. Two hundred thousand of them were slain. The *Popes* Thunderbolt set the *Empire* on fire, and so it did *England*, where at that time there was great trouble by reason of a *Welsh* rebellion. Moreover, about this time the *Albigenses* were again cruelly persecuted and slaughtered by the bloody *Papists*.

A.D. 1214. (or as others 1215.) (c) In the

d Michov. Hist. Polon. Funccius. e Histor. Ecc.
Cent. 13. Cap. 13. Egethius, Calvisius.

Mon

Moneth of *March* a terrible Blazing Star was seen, both preceding and following the Sun every day, which caused many in those dayes to think that there were two Comets at the same time. This was attended with a Persecution in *Germany*; in *Starsborough*, eighty persons were for their Religion burnt to death by the *Papists*. A general Council sat at *Rome* wherein were 412 Bishops and more then a thousand of inferiour Clergy-men. Whatever the Blazing Star in the sky had, so many Blazing stars being in Conjunction at *Rome*, must needs have a malignant influence upon the World. The times in *England* were now most doleful by reason of King *John* his ill management of affairs. His tyranny caused the Lords to take up Arms; to be avenged on whom, King *John*, *Acheronta movibat*, moved the Pope to appear on his side, who immediately sets his Bull a roaring; The *English* Lords affrighted with the bellowing of the Pope's Excommunication, request the King of *France* to come in to their Assistance, so that the Land became a stage of Rapine, bleeding under the devouring miseries which must needs follow, when two merciless Armies were in its bowels. † Several things accounted disastrous hapned. 1. *Hugh de Bones* coming to aid King *John* with threescore thousand men out of *Britain*, and *Flanders*, were all drown-

† See Sr. Richard Bakers Chronicle.

ed in the Sea. 2. Coming to *Walpool* in *Norfolk*, he was careful to obtain a guide to himself, with some few, that he might go over the *Fords* where it was passable, but took no care of the multitude which followed him, so that they all perished in the water, which disaster filled King *John* with much anguish of mind, that he fell sick and died. Yet some write that he was poysoned by a *Monk*, the year after the *Blazing Star* last mentioned was seen. The King of *Scotland* died. The *Spaniards* slew two hundred thousand *Moors*.

A.D. 1217. A Southern Comet appeared in the latter end of this year, a little after Sun set. (f) It gradually declined Westward. In form being like to a Broom, reaching almost to the midst of the sky. Remarkable Events which followed were such as these. Wars between *England* and *France*, the *French* being notably worsted. The Emperour *Otho* died. The King of *Castill* as he was playing at Ball, a Tile hapned to fall upon his head, whereby he was killed. The *Sarazens* destroyed all the Christians in *Jerusalem*. The next year, there was a dreadful inundation, so as that all *Frisa* was overwhelmed therewith, and no less then an hundred thousand souls perished in the waters.

A.D. 1223. A terrible Comet appeared.

f Hist. Eccl. ubi supra. Calvinus.

(g) Presently after which the *French King* died. The King of *Denmark* was treacherously surpris-
ed by *Suerinus*. A great Commotion hapned
in *Poland* by reason of *Henricus Barbatus* his re-
bellion. The Emperour *Frederick* being provoked
by the Pope, marched with an Army into *Italy*,
and had probably driven the Pope out of *Rome*,
had not *John* the King of *Jerusalem* inter-
posed and reconciled the difference. *Trythemi-
us* saith, that this year there was a general Murrain
amongst Cattle, so that a third part of them
died.

A.D. 1240. A Comet (b) was observed near
the Pole, pointing South-east. It was seen in
February, and continued six Moneths. (i) Wri-
ters speak of another Blazing Star: appearing
the next year for thirty dayes together in *Janu-
ary*, of a direful Aspect. Remarkable
Events were, the King of *Denmark* died. The
Tartars miserably wasted *Russia*. They came
over the Ice into *Poland*, and got the victory over
an Army that was raised to oppose them. From
whence they went to *Cracovia*; and burned down
all before them. Also in *Silesia* and *Bohemia*
they caused great desolations. The Empire was
put into a strange hurly burly. For the Emperour
had no less then seven Armies to defend himself.
The Pope and He were at daggers drawing; the
g Paris Hist. Angl. p. 305. Naclerus. h Albertus
Magnus Meteorol. L. 1. Tract. 3. C. 5. Paris ubi supra P.
66. i Polyder, Virgil, Lycosthenes, & alii. Pope

Pope resolving to call a Council of such as like him best, whether the Emperour would or no. He (i.e. the Emperour) surprized the Bishops Navy as they were transporting themselves to the Council, sunk three of their Ships. took twenty of them, and the Bishops in them became his Prisoners. The Pope immediately died with grief and vexation. Another remarkable thing was that a great Mountain in *Burgundy* was by an Earth quake removed, whereby five thousands of Country People, living in the Villages were overwhelmed, and killed in a moment.

A. D. 1254. A Comet (k) of immense magnitude appeared for several Moneths together. There followed terrible and prodigious Tempests. Wars between the *Geneveses* and the *Venetians*. The cross-bearing Army took such a course to convert the *Russians* to the Faith, as was never taught them by Christ or his Apostles, for with fire and sword they fell upon them, and made them promise that they would be Christians. The Emperour and the Pope being at variance, the Emperour died suddenly, not without suspicion of Poyson by the Popes procurement. The Pope himself died within a year. The new Pope made a great disturbance in *Italy*, but his Army was shamefully overcome. A Rebellion brake forth in *Frise*. There were great troubles and commotions in *Saxony*.

k. *Rockenbachius, Alstedius, & alii.*

A.D. 1264. A mighty Comet was seen this year, in the sign of *Taurus*, continuing for three Moneths, viz. from July to October 7. Its motion was retrograde. For at first it appeared before the Morning Star, but at last after it. (1) The stream was long and broad, appearing before the body of the Star was seen. When that came above the Horizon, it extended it self Westward over the one half of the Heavens. It was observed by the Writers living in that age, that that Blazing Star disappeared the very night in which the Pope died. Other Remarkables attending this Comet were these; The Earl of *Angiers* did at the Popes instigation remove out of *France*, and fell upon *Sicily*, causing the King there to be treacherously killed. *Armenia* was all in a flame, by means of *Banducar* (the King of *Babylon*) his coming upon them. *Hetruria* was in an uproar. *Spain* was set upon by the *Sarazens*, who slew and were slain in great multitudes. *England* blazed with Civil Wars. It would make this Discourse too voluminous, if we should expatiate particularly upon the strange and amazing revolutions which hapned there, as well as in other parts of the World about this time.

1 Palæologus, Palmerius, & alii. Wolfius habet annum 1263. Appendix ad Hist. Matth. Paris P. 967. habet annum 1265. Hoc anno (ait) apparuit Cometa notabilis, ut nullus tunc vivens, viderit talem. Zuinger Vol. 5. Lib. 4. Page 1423. Calvilius.

A. D.

A D. 1268. An horrendous Blazing Star (m) was seen, which was attended with these *Remarkables*. The *Suldan* of *Egypt* fell upon *Antioch*, slew no less then seventeen thousand Christians there, and made an hundred thousand of them Captives. *Mondavus* the King of *Portugal* renounced his Christianity, and became a professed Infidel, and raised a cruel Persecution against the Christians. In *Scotland* there were fearful destructions made by horrible winds, which *Cardan* thinks were the special evils portended by this Comet.

Historians (n) have noted that in the latter end of this and the beginning of the next Century, Blazing Stars (some of them of an horrendous magnitude and direful aspect) appeared every year, for seven or eight years together, viz. A.D. 1298, 99. 1300, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. in the last of which years the destroying Angel was let loose upon the World, the Plague raging and killing in all Countries and Nations. But the great and stupendous providence attending these *Heraulds of Heaven*, whereby the World was thus loudly and frequently Alarmed, was the rising of the *Turkish Power* united in and under the *Ottomani-cal Family*: So that in those dayes the *second Apocalyptical Wo* (and it was a Wo indeed to the

in *Cardanus*, *Ricciolus*. n *Quos citat Hevelius in libro supra laudato*. *Alstedius*.

Christians

Christian World) began to be poured forth. The huge and horrid Armies of the *Turks*, whereby Christendome (as it is called) hath been miserably wasted, and the Eastern Churches made most desolate, are set forth (o) in the *Revelation*, by that of an Army of Horsemen, consisting of two hundred thousand thousand, which are prepared to kill the third part of men, *Rev. 9. 15, 16.* Now was the time when this Army being furnished with Instruments of death, out of whose mouths issueth fire and smoak and Brimstone, began to do their woful Execution.

A. D. 1313, A great Northern (p) Comet appeared fourteen dayes, having its motion towards the South. The next year a (q) Comet was seen blazing in *Virgo* for six Moneths together. And in the (r) year after that, another Blazing Star appeared in *December*. *Thad. Hagecius* (s) writes that the year 1315. was attended with two Comets, the one of which was in the *Arctick Circle*, the other near unto *Mars*, and in the same sphere with that Planet. Remarkable Events which attended these Blazing Stars, were, the Emperour being poysoned by a wicked Monk, a Civil War broke out in *Germany* about a successor to the Crown, which continued for eight

o *Mede in locum.* p *Lycosthenes, Funccius & Buntingus habent annum 1312.* q *Wolnus, Camerarius, & alii.* r *Latvater, Herlicius.* s *In sua dialectici de nova stella, P. 56.*

years together, to the unspeakable misery of the Countries subject to the Emperour. It rained all the Summer (*r*) long, a terrible Famine and Plague followed, so that a third part of all creatures living perished. In *Portugal* and the Countries thereabouts, the Famine lasted for three years. In some places men were killed that others might eat them. In the City of *Erford* eight thousand persons died with hunger. The *Scots* went with a Fleet into *Ireland*, wasting the Countrey with fire and sword. A dismal blow was given to *England*; For King *Edward II.* raised an Army consisting of an hundred thousand to fight the *Scots*, who not having half that number in their Army, by a Stratagem routed the *English* Army, killing an Earl, several Lords, seven hundred Knights and Esquires, and about fifty thousand common Souldiers.

A.D. 1337. Two Comets were seen this year at the same time (*u*) one of which appeared in the sign *Taurus*, for the space of four Moneths, and before that was gone, another was seen, which continued blazing with the former, for three Moneths. (*w*) It was not a *Crinite* but a *Barbate* Star. It was first seen in the feet of *Pegasus*, the *Coma* (or Beard) extending it self very broad

r Funccius, Calvisius, ut lateat nullum tempus famis erce CVCVLLVM. *u* Lavater, Funccius, Calvisius Lycosthenes. *w* Niceph. Greg. *Hist. Rom.* L.II.

and pointing towards the East. Observable consequents whereof, were, the death of the King of *Sicily*. In the East there were great stirs about a Successour to the Imperial Crown. Wars between the *Turks* and *Thracians*, who were miserably slain, and thirty thousand carried into captivity at once. In some places a prodigious cold Winter, so as that the *Cross bearing Army* had their Noses and Fingers frozen. A formidable Army of Locusts devoured *Bohemia*, *Austria*, and other Countries: The breadth of which Army was twenty eight miles, the length of it could not be found: when they flew they darkened the Air, as if the Heavens had been covered with a cloud.

A.D. 1340. A Comet in form like a Sword, appeared in the Moneth of *March*, near unto *Spica Virginis*, (*) moving forward every day one Degree, until it came to the sign *Leo*, and there it vanished. This year *Andronicus* the Emperour died. A terrible Plague raged in *Italy*; War between *England* and *France*, wherein the *French* were egregiously worsted, their Navy burnt and broken by the *English*. The next year the *Turks* caused *Poland*, *Moravia*, *Hungaria*, to become miserable stages of Rapine, Blood, and Fire. An Earth-quake in *Burgundy*, removed two Mountains which fell upon the People thereabout. A

as Lavater, Palmerius, Prætorius, Eckstormius.

prodigious Tempest and destructive Flood happened in other parts.

A.D. 1347. In the Moneth of *August*, a Comet appeared in *Taurus*, continuing sixty dayes. (y) Many things worthy of remark hapned this year. For the *Scots* invading *England* with an Army, fifteen thousand of them were slain by the *English*, and their King taken Prisoner. There was a general rising of the People in *Aragon*. The Emperour as he was hunting a Bear fell off his Horse and quickly died. The King of *Sicily* was strangled by his Queen in his sleep. A sweeping Plague lasting for the space of six years, went through the World. It came out of *Asia* into *Europe* this year, There died in the City of *Lebeck* ninety thousand, in *Avinion* an innumerable multitude; In *England* nine parts of ten died throughout the Land. Above fifty seven thousand in the City of *Normich*. So fearful was this Befall some of Destruction, as that a third part of Mankind was not left alive upon the face of the Earth. *Alstedius** (a grave and learned Author) Writes, that this Plague swept away no less than a Million, two hundred and forty four thousand four hundred & forty four *Monks* which (though strange) yet considering that the World did then swarm with *Monks* is not impossible to be true.

y Lavater; Ricciolus. Calvisius. * Chronol. Chap. 25. P. 174.

A.D. 1351. A (a) Northern Comet appeared in December. Some (a) Authors speak of Blazing Stars seen in the two following years also. These Prodigies were attended with fearful Tempests, Drought, Famine, and Plague, especially in Italy. VVars in Germany, and a devouring Army of Locusts in Asia, and in Africa. Fearful burnings and desolations in many places, occasioned by lightning.

A.D. 1362. A fearful Comet appeared (b) in the Evening on the eleventh of March, in the sign Aquarius, being ninety Degrees in length, pointing Eastward, and continuing for the space of three Months. Things which followed, were, the Pope and the King of France both died within year. VVars and great troubles in many places, e. g. between the King of Castel, and of Arragon; the Earl of Holland, and the Gildrians, the King of Cyprus and the Sarazens. In Poland a Famine prevailed, and a violent Plague throughout all Britain.

A.D. 1375. A Comet appeared (c) Soon after which the Emperovr Charles the IV. died. Great tumults in Cracovia; a VVar in Thuringia lasting two years. Wickliffs Doctrine was con-

a Lavater, Lycopthes. a Schofferus, Eckstormius. Eckstormius, Hevelius, ex Hist. Pol. Prætorius, & Alstedius habent eam, 1363. c Lycopthes, Rockenbachi,

demned in *England*. Seventeen Towns in *Flanders* were drowned. The *French* took the Isle of *Wight*, burn *Hasting*, &c. Prince *Edward* died.

A.D. 1380. (which year was famous for the first invention of Guns) A Comet (*d*) appeared in *Aquarius*, continuing three Moneths. And (*c*) another (or the same) appeared again within two years. Remarkable Events, were, a terrible Plague. The death of the King of *France* and of the King of *Hungaria*. Locusts in *Germany*. A prodigious Rebellion hapned in *England*. The Kings Collector behaving himself rudely, was knocked in head by one whom he had affronted and enraged, whereupon no less then a hundred thousand of the rabble rout gathered together, and siezed upon the Tower of *London* in which was the King and Queen, and caused the Lord Chancellour, Lord Treasurer, Lord Chief Justice, and others to be barbarously slain.

A.D. 1394. A blazing Star in form (*f*) like a spit (which Astronomers are wont to look upon as most unhappily ominous) with the head downward, and the Coma or Blaze pointing upwards was seen in the West, moving Northward. This year the *Pope* died, and the next year the Duke of *Austria*. The King of *Arragon* as he was

d Pockenbachius, Alstedius. *e* Idem, Bonfinius, Eckermius. *f* Lavater, Lycosthenes.

hunting

unting, beheld a VVolf (or rather a Devil in
 the same likeness) of a prodigious magnitude,
 at the sight whereof he was frighted to death. A-
 bout that time, all the *Jews* in *Germany* were ei-
 ther killed or banished. *Wickliff's* Doctrine be-
 gan to enlighten *Germany*. Troubles arose be-
 tween the *Germans* and the *Italians*. The (*g*)
Turks being informed that the *Christians* were at
 great variance amongst themselves, came with an
 army of two hundred thousand, under *Bajazet*,
 and obtained a fatal and remarkable Victory over
 the *Europeans*. About this time the Duke of
Lancaster made such an interest in *England*, as
 caused King *Richard* to be deposed from his
 throne, and after he had resigned the Crown, to
 be privately murdered by bloody Villains;

A.D. 1400. In the (*h*) Spring time a Comet
 was seen. But the next (*i*) year in *February*, the
 whole VVorld was amazed with the sight of a
 very and flaming Comet in form like a Lamp.
 whose Blaze was four Cubits in length. The light
 it was so great, as that it obscured the Stars,
 and overcame the darkness of the night as long as
 it was above the *Horizon*. It continued until the
 sun entered into *Libra*. The consequents of this
 amazing Star, were no less prodigious, then the
 Comet that appeared. (*k*) In divers places the

g Cluverus, *h* Herlicius, Prætorius, &c. *i* Historia
 Constantina. *k* Alsted,

Plagues

Plague raged, and other grievous Diseases before that time unheard of. Great Rivers were dried up. It would make this Discourse too voluminous, particularly to enumerate all the fatal and memorable accidents which hapned by reason of VVars in many Countries. Our *English* (1) Chronologers, say, that this Blazing Star was portentious of that effusion of Blood in *Wales* and *Northumberland*, which followed quickly after. A very prodigious thing hapned the same year in *Danbury* in *Essex*; the Devil in the shape of a *Grey Friar*, entering the Church, put the People into a lamentable fright, and in the same hour with a Tempest of Whirlwind and Thunder, the top of the Steple was broken down, and half the Chancel scattered abroad. In *Bohemia*, *John Huss* standing up in defence of *Wickliff's* Doctrine, many small Commotions were occasioned thereby. But that which most amazed the World, was, *Tamerlain* came out of *Asia*, with an huge Host. He overcame the *Turkish* Emperour, and used him like a slave. He called himself the *Anger of God*, and master of the Earth; and indeed he made the Earth to swim in blood.

A.D. 1432. A total (m) Solar Eclipse was attended with a small Comet. The next year another great Comet of a red and fiery aspect. was seen. (n) It continued blazing all night long.

1v. Sr. R. Bakers Chron. m Chr. Polon. n Funccius Antedius.

or was it extinct for a quarter of a year together. Remarkable Events, were, a Dearth of six years continuance. (o) An Inundation throughout all *Germany*, in *Thuringia* 40 Villages perished in that Flood, also several Towns in *Bohemia*. In the Spring time there was a great Snow continuing for 40 dayes together, so that Beasts & Birds perished in great multitudes. Hunger brought the wild Beasts upon the Towns, either to kill or be killed. A flame of War was kindled between the Duke of *Saxony* and the Prince of *Brandenburg*. *France* was sorely distressed. The King of *Portugal* and the King of *Poland* died. The Duke of *Venice*, was beheaded. The Pope did like to have been stoned to death, being forced to disguise himself, and so to flee out of *me*.

A.D. 1419. (p) A Comet appeared. This year *Albert* the Emperour died. Great commotions were in the Empire by reason of the *Turks*; and Wars between the *English* and the *French*. The Marshal of *France* was burnt for Sorcery. The King of *Bohemia* died. A bloody Rebellion broke forth in *Spain*. The Council at *Basil* deposed the Pope, and chose a new one, which caused a notable Schisme amongst the worshippers of the Beast, some adhering to the old Pope, and others to the new one. The next year was famous

Calvisius, p Funccius, Camerarius, &c.

for the first Invention of the Art of *PRINTING* by *John Guttenberg* a Goldsmith in *Strasburg*:

A.D. 1444. About midsummer (q) a Blazing Star was seen in *Leo*. The King of *Hungary* with a great multitude of *Christians* was slain in Battle with the *Turks*. The King of *France* and the *Helvetians* fall out. Tumults hapned in *England*. *Amurathes* the *Turkish* Emperour being distressed by the King of *Hungary*, (who had the perswasion of the Cardinal *Julianus*, violate his Covenant with *Amurathes*) prayed to God for help, vowing that if God would give him the victory, he would betake himself to a Monastery. Which after the Victory he accordingly performed, and resigned his Crown to another, whereof great commotions in the *Turkish* Empire, and the burning of *Adrianeple* was occasioned. The next year, a terrible inundation of waters hapned in the *Netherlands*, so as that above an hundred thousand persons lost their lives in that flood, besides an infinite multitude of Cattle.

A.D. 1450. A Comet was seen this Summer appearing a little after Sun-set, in form like a Sword, moving from the West towards the East (r) The Moon being at the full, this Comet reported to cause it to suffer an Eclipse, (I do not remember that I have read the like of any Comet whence the *Turks* were not a little astonished,

q Prætorius, Rockenbachius. r Ricciolus ex *Franci*
Hist. L. 5, C. 21,

the beholding of it. Remarkable events, were, The Turkish Emperour died. The Eastern parts flamed with VVar. Constantinople was taken by the Infidels. The Empire was embroyled with civil Discords. Also Jack Cade his mad Rebellion in England hapned in this year, when divers Nobles of the Land were murthered. The French taking advantage from the troubles in England seize upon all the English Territories here, leaving nothing to the English but Calice. This year Naples was shaken with an Earth quake, and thirty thousand persons were destroyed by that Earth-quake, in places adjacent.

A D. 1456. A Comet appeared in Cancer, and another in Leo, extending it self over two of the Coelestial Signs (i.e. 60 degrees.) This Blazing Star was attended with a direful Earth-quake in Italy, by means whereof thirty thousand persons lost their lives, also a great Plague. Bloody VVars between the Turks and the Hungarians. That brave Prince of Transylvania, Hunniades, after he had destroyed two hundred of the Turks ships, and in one Battle slain forty thousand of them, died. The young King of Hungaria, on the day appointed for his Marriage, died suddenly. One of Hunniades his Sons being then a prisoner, and expecting Sentence of death, was

Alsted Chronol. Cap. 25. s Funccius, Calvisius, &c.
Alji habent annum, 1457.

set at liberty, and chosen King, so that there was a sudden and stupendous alteration of affairs. *Scanderbegs Wars* and the great Commotion caused thereby, were about this time.

A.D. 1460. A notable Comet was seen. (t) The King of *France*, and the King of *Scotland* died. *Cracovia* was laid waste with Fire and Sword. In *England* the Duke of *York* aspiring to the Throne, headed an Army, designing to depose the King, but was himself slain. His Son the Earl of *March*, put in for the Crown, between whom and King *Henry VI.* there was this year the bloodiest Battel fought that ever was known in *England*. No less then thirty seven thousand *English-men* were slain in one day. The Earl got the Crown, and the King was kept Prisoner in the Tower. A Civil War began in *France*.

A.D. 1470. A marvellous Comet appeared this year. That great Mathematician *Regiomontanus* (whom (u) *Peter Ramus* calls the glory of *Germany*) was accurate in observing that Prodigy, in all its motions, from whom *Mizaldus* hath given an exact description of it. The body of the Star, did at first seem small, but on a sudden it grew to a wondrous magnitude, and then again decreased. Sometimes of a white, otherwhilom of a flame like aspect. The Blaze (w) was at the

t Prætorius, Rockenbachius, Funccius. u In *Scheineri Mathem.* w In *Cometogr.* Lib. 1. Cap. ult.

first appearance, and a little before it disappeared short, but after it had been seen forty dayes, the length of it was above fifty degrees. Its duration was the space of eighty dayes. At first it could be seen only in the morning, at last only in the evening, in the middle of its duration it might be seen all the night long. Its motion (which was alwayes retrograde) at its beginning and ending was slow, but in the middl of its circuit was swift, even so as to dispatch 40 degrees in one natural day. It passed from *Virgo* through *Bootes*, the *Dragon*, *Ursa minor*, the feet of *Cepheus*, breast of *Cassiopea*, *Andromeda*, *Pisces*, *Serpentarius*, until it came to the *Whale*, where by reason of *Occasus Heliacus*, it disappeared. The Blaze did continually point at the *Gemini*. In the same night presently after Sun set it would point to the East, near midnight to the South, after midnight to the West, a little before Sun rise to the North. As for Events, There followed a very great Drought of three years continuance; so that in *Hungaria*, the great River *Danaw* (which is the greatest River in *Europe*) might be waded over; such horrible winds in *Germany* as blew down many Houses. A terrible Plague, in which many were deserted of their Relations, that so they might escape with their own lives. The cruel Wars of the Duke of *Burgundy*, which continued until his death, Also Wars between the *Hungarians* and the *Polanders*, and in the East between the

the *Persians* and the *Turks*. This year, the King of *England*, *Henry VI.* was Murdered by the bloody hands of the Duke of *Glocester*.

A.D. 1477. A Cærulean dark coloured Comet was seen. (x) The Emperour *Charles V.* used to say that that *Blazing Star* was portentous of his Grandfathers Death, who fell amongst others that were slain in that Battle fought before *Nancy* this year. It was a fatal year to many other Princes. A direful Plague followed, and such heat and drought, as that great Rivers were dried up; and not only Fruit Trees were destroyed but whole Forrests were set on fire by the scorching heat of the Sun. A terrible Plague followed.

A.D. 1491. A Comet appeared in the evening (y) a little after Sun-set. The Star small but the Stream long, extending it self Eastward in direct opposition to the body of the Sun. Immediately after which the *Turks* overcame *Dalmatia*, and *Slavonia*. There was also a great Mortality both amongst Men and Cattle. The Pope and the King of *Poland* died this year. The King of *Portugal* was killed by a fall from his Horse. The next year the *new World* (as it useth to be called) viz. that part of the World which now bears the Name of *America* was discovered by *Christopher Columbus*.

x Eberus, Buntingus, Eckstormius, &c. Alstedius y Mizaldus, Prætorius ex *Walteri Observationibus*, Funccius.

CHAP. VIII.

*The History of Comets which have been Observed
from the Year 1500. to 1600. with the Events.*

AD. 1500. In the Moneth of *April*, a Comet (*a*) was observed in the sign of *Capricorn*, of a fearful magnitude, appearing for above a quarter of a year, and was seen in the day time as well as in the night. And another (*b*) the same year in *January*, seen also in the Day, for above a week together. Four years after, there hapned a Conjunction of the Superiour Planets, which was attended with a notable *Blazing Star* almost as light as the Moon, so that people could see to Travel by the light of it. The next year another Comet was seen in *April* continuing two dayes. And again in *August*, under *Coma Berenices*, and near *Charles Wain*. Remarkable Events attending these Comets were, the death of the Arch Duke of *Austria*, and of the King of *Spain*, and of the King of *Bohemia*, and of the Queen in *England*. Plague, Famine, and sore Drought lasting from *January* to *November*, in some Countries. Prodigious Tempests and Inundations in other places. The *Tartars* wasted

a Rockenbachius, Funccius, Mizaldus *b* Lavater, Hevelius, Alltedius.

Poland, the *Muscovites Lithuania*. The *Bavarian War* also War between the *Germans*, the *Venetians*, and *French*. The *Spaniards* began their most bloody Butcheries amongst the *Indians*. The Islands of *Hispaniola*, *Cuba*, *Jamaica*, were exceeding populous, but the cruel *Spaniards* made them desolate. A Writer of their own confesseth that in a few years time, they killed more then ten hundred thousand Natives, fourteen times told.

A.D. 1513. A Comet appeared in *Cancer*, (c) continuing from *December* to the latter end of *January*. The colour various, the stream long, seen all night. This year that great *Blazing Star* which had put the whole *Christian World* into a flame, died, viz. *Pope Julius II*. The King of *Scotland* with an Army of sixty thousand invaded *England*, but he was slain in battel, and (besides three Bishops, twelve Earls, seventeen Lords) many thousands with him. The King of *Denmark* died. Insurrections in many places in *Germany* followed. The next year the *Popes Legate* made a Proclamation in *Hungaria*, that whatsoever would go out against the *Turks* should have *Indulgences* granted them, whereupon a great rabble gathered together, but instead of warring against the *Turks*, they fell upon their own Countrey.

† c Ricciolus ex Petro Surdo, Zanch. de operibus Dei, L. 3. C. 2. P. 335.

men, slew seventy thousand of them, amongst which were four hundred of the Nobles. The *Turks* and *Christians* had a bloody engagement; an hundred thousand of the *Turks* best Souldiers were cut off in one day. About this time *Armenia* was conquered by *Setimus*, and annexed to the *Ottoman Dominions*, v. *Ricant* of the present state of the *Armenian Church*, P. 389.

A D. 1516. A Comet (*d*) of a Lunar nature, was seen for some dayes. The King of *Spain* died. The next year *Luther* began to declare against indulgences. Soon after which great Commo- tions and mutations followed throughout all *Antichristendome*. † Now did the merciless *Spaniards* fall upon the *Indians* inhabiting the *Terra Firma*, where they murdered above four Millions of Souls. The *Sulden* of *Egypt* was miserably murdered, and the *Mamaluks* power (that had kept *Egypt* under three hundred years) swallowed up by the *Turks*.

A.D. 1523. And in the next year also, a Comet appeared. (e) A fearful Inundation followed, & earth-quakes. The Sedition of the *Rusticks* in *Germany*, in which sixty thousand lives were lost: the King of *France* was taken Prisoner by

d Mizabius, P. Jovius. † v. *Purchase Pilgrim*, Part, 4. L. P. 1577. e *Præterius*, *Pockenbachius*, *Junctinus*, *Chormius*,

Charles

Charles V. The Duke of *Saxony* died. In *England*, after a great Rain, there followed such an extream Frost, as that many lost their nails, and some died with cold.

A.D. 1527. On the eleventh day of *August*, a most terrifying (f) Comet was seen, of an immense longitude, and bloody colour. The form of it, was like a mans arm holding an huge Sword in his hand with which he was ready to strike. Such terrour and horreur surprized the Spectators of this Prodigy, as that some died away with dread & amazement. (g) The next year another Comet was seen in *Pisces*, Jan. 18. There followed a great Dearth in *England* by reason of extremity of Rain in Seed time; also a Famine in *Venice*, and in several other places, whereby many perished. And that woful Disease known by the name of *the English Sweat*, infected all places of the Realm, whereby whole miriads were sent to the Grave. The Duke of *Barbon* took *Rome*, and sacked it. The *Turks* wasted *Hungaria*. In some places, Armies of *Locusts* devoured the fruits of the Earth.

A.D. 1530. A (h) Comet was observed. And again the next year in *August* and *September*, having its motion from the beginning of *Leo* unto *Libra*, appearing first in the Morning before Sun-

f VVolfius, Cent. 16. P. 293. Lavater, Herlicius, Gemma. g Ricciolus. h Mizaldus, Eckstormius, &c.

rise, afterwards in the evening. Again, (i) the year following from *September 25. to October 20.* its motion being from *Virgo* to *Scorpio*, and at first southern, but at last a northern Latitude. The body of the Star was three times as big as the planet *Jupiter*; the stream exceeding long, pointing to the South-west. The next year in *June*, in *Gemini*; the Star somewhat greater then *Jupiter*, the figure like a long sword. As for the more remarkable Events, attending those Blazing Stars, thus annually appearing, they were such as these: an Earth-quake in *Portugal*; above a thousand houses were thrown down thereby. A sore Famine in some Countries. A great Flood or Inundation of Waters in the *Netherlands*, viz. in *Holland, Friesland*, and *Zeland* (no less then four hundred and four Parishes were drowned;) ye also in *Poland*: Also at *Rome* the River *Tyber* overflowed its Banks. Now did the famous *Confession* of *Ausburg* come forth, and the name of *Protestant* was first known. That Confession was put into the form of a Covenant, subscribed by several of the Electoral Princes, who protested they would abide by the Truth, so did the opposers of Popery come to bear the name of *Protestants*. The World blazed and flamed out with Wars every where. In the East the *Persians* and *Turks* were at variance. Also the *Turks* made

an irruption upon *Christendome*. *Hungaria* was full of Troubles. In *Helvetia* there was an unhappy War, wherein *Zuinglius* (that Star of the first magnitude) lost his life. In *Westphalia*, the *Munsterian Anabaptists* brought all to confusion. In *Denmark*, the *Popish* party designing to suppress the Protestants, involved that Kingdome in War and Blood. In *Africa*, the Kingdome of *Tunisia* was put into a flame by *Barbarossa*. Great mutations hapned in *England* which filled the World with discourse and wonderment, for King *Henry VIII.* cast off the Popes Supremacy, and turned the *Monks* and *Friers* out of doors, disposing of the Church-lands to whom he pleased. By all which things it appears, that the Blazing Stars mentioned were not seen for nothing.

A.D. 1538. A Comet appeared in *January*, (continuing three weeks. It was seen in the evening (in the sign *Pisces*) the Blaze 30 degrees in Longitude. The (1) next year a great Comet appeared in *Leo*, from *May* 6, to 17. Many things worthy of Remark hapned in this year. Amongst the *Napolitans*, the Sea was dried up eight miles; and out of that place there was a most horrendous irruption of fiery flames, and ashes, which falling upon the People living thereabouts, they were miserably destroyed. A terrible Conflagration hapned in *Constantinople* con-

& *Jacobus Fincelius*. 1 *Appianus. Hallerus*:

tinuin

ning several dayes. A fiery Summer and a
 corching Drought in many places. The King of
 France came with an Army into *Italy*. The King
 of *Spains* Navy was overcome by *Barbarossa*. The
 Duke of *Saxony* died with grief, and his death oc-
 casioned great mutations and miseries in that part
 of *Germany*. The *Aninomians* headed by an
 obscure and illiterate person (one *Jahn Iſeb*) did
 now first begin to *Blaze* in *Germany*. A principal
 City in the Countrey of *Mexico* was almost over-
 whelmed by a Deluge of boyling water which
 descended from a *Vulcano* near unto it.

A.D. 1542, A (1) Blazing Star terrible to
 behold, was seen forty dayes. Three years after
 that another appeared of a bloody colour. Re-
 markable Events, were, a great Drought, in *En-
 gland*, the lesser Rivers were clean dried up, much
 Cattle died there for lack of Water. In *Silisia*
 and other Countries the Locusts did much harm.
 The designed Expedition of the *Christians* against
 the *Turks* proved unhappy, a great part of the
Christian Army dying by an Epidemical Disease.
 The latter of these Comets was attended with the
 first Session of the Council of *Trent*; Also at
 the Popes Instigation the *waldenses* were destroy-
 ed for their Religion, and Popish, Barbarous, Un-
 paralleld Cruelties exercised towards them, The

1. Rockenbachius, Eckstormius, Ricciolus ex Fromorde
 Senerto habet An. 1543.

next year (*viz.* A.D. 1546.) *Luther* died, immediately upon whose death a Cloud of Blood which had been long impending, fell upon *Germany*, & a fatal War broke out between the Emperour and the Protestant Princes.

A.D. 1556. A Comet in *Libra* was seen from the beginning of *March* to *April* 23. The Colour varied. (*m*) The body of it shining like the half Moon, the stream near its head more compact, but in the end more rare. Its motion from *Virgo* through *Bootes* to the North Pole of the *Ecliptick*; from thence through *Andromeda* & *Piscis septentrionalis*, where it vanished. In the midst of its appearance the motion was most swift, for it dispatched 15 Degrees every day: at the first it was retrograde, but afterwards direct. In the space of four days it was removed about 70 Degrees Westward, and 30 Degrees Northward. It moved towards the Planet *Saturn*; the nearer it came to him, the slower was its motion. (*n*) Its magnitude at its disappearing in a manner equal to what it was at first. This Comet was attended with the death of many Learned and Worthy Men; and with the fiery part of *Queen Mary's* Persecution. This year also, the Emperour *Charles V.* did to the amazement of the World, resign his Crown, and betook himself to

m Hommelius, Camerarius, Bizaras, Histor. Genue.
Kepler, Cardanus, & alii. n Gemma.

Monastery. Such an Inundation hapned at *Rome* by the River *Tyber* overflowing, as that a great part of the City was thereby destroyed.

A.D. 1558. A Comet was seen in the Evening under *Coma Berenices*, of a pale colour, continuing about 30 dayes. (o) Also in *May* the next year; and in *December* the year after that. These three years did not pass without such things as were very observable. In *England* there was such a prodigious Tempest as the like (in respect of circumstances) is seldome mentioned in any History. That year also *Queen Mary* died, and famous *Queen Elizabeth* seconded, whereby affairs both in Church and State were strangely altered. The Emperour *Charles V.* said that Comet was sent to give him notice of his approaching Death. And at the sight of it, made this Pentameter, *His ergò indicij me mea fata vocant.* So it hapned, for he died that year, (p) The next year the Pope died, and no less then fifteen Cardinals, also the King of *France*, the King of *Portugal*, the King of *Denmark*, and many other Princes.

A. D. 1577. This year a notable blazing Star amazed the VWorld for three Moneths together. Those famous Mathematicians *Michael Mastlin*, *Cornelius Gemma*, and *Tycho Brahe*, have written

o Thuanus, Lib. 21. Page 577. Tycho Epist. P. 144.
Ricciolus.

largely and learnedly concerning that Comet. It was seen first on the ninth of *November*, in the beginning of *Capricorn*, passing through that sign and *Aquarius*, to the midst of *Pisces*. The Star was equal to *Venus* in magnitude, being a compact solid body, and like a little Moon, shining as the purest Silver. The stream differed in colour from the Star, for it was red and fiery, in breadth five Degrees, and in length thirty. Towards the body of the Star, the rayes were more condensed, but the longer they were distended, they appeared to be more scattered and diffused abroad, which argued that the Stream was produced by some external light penetrating through the body of the Star; and it was observed to be opposite to the Sun, yet so as that the form of it was bending like a Bow, whose convexity was towards the Zenith, and concavity towards the *Horizon*. Both *Gemma* and *Tycho* found that this Comet was higher then the Moon. According to *Tycho's* observation, the true Diameter of the Star was 368. *Mill. Germ.* so that its proportion to the Earth was as 3 to 14. The Longitude of the Comets tail he found to be 96 Semidiameters of the Earth. He concluded it was not in the *Airy* but in the *Etherial* World, because it did admit of no sensible Parallax. On *November* 10. the Parallax was 19 12 which was diminished every day until it came to two minutes, and that was a demonstration that the Comet

Comet ascended higher and higher. At the first it was distant from the Earth 173 Semidiameters, but at last 1713. *b.e.* it ascended as high as the Sun itself. As for Events, the King of *Persia* died by poyson. The great Turk was slain in Battel, and seventy thousand with him. The King of *Portugal* would needs venture into *Mauritania* that so he might restore *Mahomed* to the Kingdome which his Uncle *Abdelmeleck* had detrued him from; in that memorable Battel the King of *Portugal* was slain, and the greatest part of the Nobility with him. *Abdelmeleck* though he obtained a victory died that day of an Apoplexy. *Mahomed* was drowned in the Marshes, so that three Kings lost their lives in one day. This year also *Novograde* in *Muscovia* (whose Inhabitants were wont to say that nothing was able to oppose God, unless it were great *Novograde*) was taken, the Conquerour carrying away with him (as its said) * an 100 VVagons of Gold and silver.

A. D. 1580. A wonderful Comet appeared this year. It was observed first *October* 2 having no Coma for several dayes, *sc.* not till *October* 9. When on a sudden it appeared with a formidable blaze. The reason of which *Mestlin* judgeth to be this. The Sun and the Comet were in opposite signs in the *Zodiack*, so that at first the Coma

* Mordens Geography rectified, P. 122.

ascending directly upwards could not be perceived by men here below, but as the Star receded from the Sun's Diameter, the rayes issuing from thence were seen, which were adverse to the Sun though not in exact Diametrical opposition thereto. Its appearance continued above three Moneths. At first in the Evening at 7 h. but November 14. it was seen both in the Morning and in the Evening, until December 6. when it appeared in the Morning only. It was bigger than a Star of the first magnitude, only of a darker colour, and not moving as the fixed Stars, but as the Planets do. At first retrograde and slow in its progress, afterwards swiftly passing through *Aries*, *Pisces*, *Capricorn*, *Sagittarius*, but towards the end of its appearance, the motion was more remiss, until it became almost stationary, it was as high as the Planet *Mercury*, or *Venus*, viz. 15°. S.T. There followed an epidemical Disease, which strangely run through all *Europe*. Also great Wars between the Emperour of *Muscovia*, and the *Suevians* and *Polanders*. The States of *Holland* united in renouncing obedience and subjection unto the King of *Spain*, and from thence they bear the name of the *United Provinces*. The Christians in *Cyprus* this year rebelling against the *Turks*, were miserably destroyed: (1) So that

* See *Ricaut* of the present state of the Greek Churches, P. 91.

fourteen thousand Villages of *Christians* which then were in that populous Island, there now remain but seven hundred.

A. D. 1585. A strange Star appeared (q) from the 8th of *October*, to the 5th of *November*, in the Sign of *Pisces*, having its motion direct through *Aries*, *Taurus*, &c. The magnitude equal to *Jupiter* but affording an obscure cloudy kind of light without any *Coma*. It was observed to be as high as *Saturn*.

The next year (r) the Plague raged in the lesser *Asia*, *Austria* and *Hungaria*. *Italy* and the low Countries were afflicted with a Famine. In the Countrey near *Constantinople*, Armies of *Locusts* devoured the fruits of the Earth. The Queen of *Scotland* being in *England* was tried for her life, condemned and beheaded.

A. D. 1590. A Comet appeared from *February* 23. to *March* 6. near *Piscis Borealis*. The blaze very thin and small, and about ten degrees in length. It was by *Tycho* observed to be as high as the Sun.

As for Events, the Pope *Sixtus V.* died, and his Successour *Urbanus VII.* lived but ten dayes after he came to the Popedom, *Gregory XIV.* succeeded him, but lived not a whole year, the next Pope, viz. *Innocentius IX.* lived but two Moneths; so that four Popes successively died in little more

q *Tycho Braheus*, *Christoph Rothmanns*. r *Ricciolus*.

then a years time. There was a terrible Earthquake this year in *Moravia* and *Austria*, whereby many Houses (especially in *Vienna*) were destroyed. The next Summer there was a sore Drought. A Shepherd in a place in *Holland* carelessly throwing some fire upon the ground, by reason of the dry season, the ground took fire, and burnt so that the Heavens seemed to flame, nor could the fire be extinguished, until the Sea water was let in upon it. In *Paris* thirteen thousand Persons were famished to death this year.

A.D. 1596. July 9. A Comet of Saturnine aspect appeared in *Ursa major*, from whence it hastened to *Coma Berenices*. (r) It passed through *Cancer*, *Leo*, and *Virgo*, and there turning aside, became Stationary. Remarkable Events were; a drought and earthquake in divers places. The *English* burnt the *Spanish* Fleet. The *Turks* in Battle overcame the *Austrians*. This year many great Personages (s) died in *England*, Also (t) many famous for Learning in other Countries. *Ireland* blazed with *Tyr Owens* Rebellion, nor could that Flame be extinguished without the effusion of much *English* blood. An exundation of the River *Tyber*, drowned 1500 persons in *Rome*, and the City received inestimable detriment thereby.

r Bucholzer, Mæstlinus & alii. s Sr. Richard Bakers Chron. p. 387. t Cluverius Hist. P. 753.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

The History of Comets appearing in this last Century, with the more remarkable occurrences of Divine Providence which have attended them.

AD. 1607. September 25. A Comet appeared (*u*) continuing about forty dayes, making its progress from the foot of *Ursa major*, through *Bootes*, until it came to the hand of *Ophiuchus*, where it began to alter its course. The Star was not exactly round, but seemed to have a swollen face. It appeared bigger then any fixed Star. The rayes proceeding from it, were more condense and compacted then useth to be. Because of its *Septentrional Latitude*, it might be seen both in the evening and in the morning, (and in *Germany* all the night long) whence the vulgar ignorantly concluded that there were two distinct Comets. As for remarkable occurrents, the Prince of *Transylvania* was poysoned by his Chancellour. The *Hayduques* with the *Turks* made wofull havock in *Hungaria*; The Emperour was in great distress, by reason that his Brother the Arch-Duke headed an Army, aspiring after the Imperial Crown, and prevailed so far that he was

u Kepler, Longomontanus, Gotfr. Wendelin, Clavius.

declared the King of *Hungaria*, after which he persecuted the Protestants in *Austria*. The Duke of *Lorrain* died. There were great Wars between the *Sweeds* and *Danes*.

A.D. 1618. This year is famous for Blazing Stars, inasmuch as therein no less then four Comets were observed. The first appeared from *August* 25. to *September* 25. about three hours after midnight, casting its blaze from the East towards the West. *September* 1. *Kepler* observed it to be a little below the left foot of *Ursa major*, and declining towards the head of *Leo*, its motion was retrograde. *Sept.* 6. with the naked eye no blaze could be perceived, but with the *Telescope* one might perceive it like a thin Cloud: *Sept.* 23. it was come to 29. of *Cancer*. *Lat. Borealis* 23. about 10 dayes, deflecting from the *Ecliptick* Southward, almost 15 Degrees, having a retrograde motion. The Star was hardly perceivable in *Europe* by reason of its vicinity to the Sun, but in *Persia*, and in the *East-Indies* (though not in *Europe*) continuing from *November* 22. to *December* 13. The fourth and last Comet appearing this year, was that which all the Earth looked upon with astonishment. It was first taken notice of *November* 24. and continued to *January* 24. *b.e.* for the space of 60 dayes. There are some now living who remember this blazing Star. But I find a far other kind of Description given of it in the Books of those learned Mathematicians who

who were accurate and diligent observers of this Prodigy, then that which is related by those still alive, that in their youth might see it. There had not the like Comet to this appeared for the space of 150 years.

It was seen first in *Libra*, moving towards the North with some inclination Westward, viz. through the midst of *Libra* and *Bootes*, when it came there it might be seen all the night long. The body of the Comet was to appearance bigger then a Star of the first magnitude, and would sometimes seem to twinkle. *Wendeline*, *Cusatus* and others that viewed it with a *Telescope*, did to their admiration observe a little Nut or Star in the body of this Comet; after that it was broken into three Stars like Coals of fire in a flaming Oven; after that into a multitude of little Stars which could not be numbred because they would sometimes sparkle out, and otherwhile abscond from the eye. The blaze was narrow near the Star, but broad at a distance from it. At its first appearance it bended like a Bow, but afterwards it appeared straight. The Colour of the Blaze near the Star was red and fiery, but towards the end of it white and pale, very much resembling the *Via Lactea*. December 21. the visible Longitude of the blaze was 22 Degrees, December 8. it was 58 Degrees, Decemb. 9. it was 75. Degrees in length. *Longomontanus* saith that once the Blaze was extended one hundred & four degrees.

in length; and that as for its distance from the Earth it was four times as high as the Moon, viz. 240 *S.T.* Before it was extinct it had a less *Parallax* than the Sun, and therefore was above it. The true length of the blaze was beyond that of its distance from the Earth no less than 445 *S.T.* so that a man going forty miles every day would not in an hundred years go so far as that blaze extended. He might sooner go round the whole Earth seventy times over, then once go over the extent of that formidable blaze. Remarkable Events, attending these Comets, were, the death of the Emperour and Empress. A drought all that Winter; An Earth-quake (which hapned on the day when the first of these Comets appeared) in *Italy* removed a Mountain which fell upon the Town of *Plours*, whereby an 1500. persons were crushed to death in a moment. But the great and fatal consequent of this Prodigy, was, the *Bohemian* and *Germanic* War, in which Rivers of Blood were poured forth. No less than six (some say eight) hundred thousand lives being cut off by the devouring mouth of the Sword. And the Prince *Palatine*, King of *Bohemia* dispossessed of his hereditary Estate, forced to fly for his life, and his Countrey made a desolation. Quickly after these Blazing Stars, God sent the Plague amongst the *Indians* here in *New-England* which swept them away in such numbers, as that the living were not enough to bury the dead. This year

near also in Grand Caire in *Agypt* there died six hundred thousand by the Pestilence.

A.D. 1652. A Comet was seen *December 10.* continuing 21 dayes. Its motion was retrograde from the South towards the North, through the *Lare*, the foot of *Orion*, *Taurus*, unto *Perseus*. Its diurnal motion at first was 11 Degrees and 6 Minutes, but at last hardly 30 Minutes. When it was nearest to the Earth, its distance was 110 *S.T.* the Parallax being 31. *m.* 15. *sec.* But a little before its disappearance it was removed 2509. *S.T.* the Parallax being but 9 *sec.* so that at last it was as high as the Orb of *Jupiter*. When observed with a Telescope, the head appeared to be round, (*m*) and not less then the Moon when at the full; and four or five clots might be discerned in the *Cometrical body*, whereof two were something bigger then the rest, and many minute little bodies resembling Stars, but their light not so vivid as that of the true Stars is. These clots in the *Cometrical body*, did very much alter and dissipate every day. The blaze was seven degrees to its visible Longitude, in form like a *Pyramide* or *Pillar* of a duskyish, smoaky kind of aspect. The true diameter of the Comet was 825. *Mill.* *term.*, so that if a Man should travail 10 *German* or 40 of our) miles every day, he could not go round the body of this Comet in less then 59 dayes, of so vast a circumference was its magnitude. Many undertook to predict strange things
w Hevelius, VVendelinus.

things from the appearance of this Blazing Star. Especially a blind but insolent (x) Buzzard of our own Nation (as learned Mr. Gataker in the *English Annotations* on Jer. 10.2. not undeservedly calls him) foretold matters which never came to pass, yet several things very remarkable we are now know attended this Comet, e.g. Wars between England and Holland, Denmark, Sweden. Blood Sea-fights, the Sea and the Waves thereof roaring. Strange alterations in England, for the next year Cromwel dissolved that which is known by the name of the Rump-Parliament, and set up for himself. Also Quakerisme now began to infect the World. The Pope and the King of Bohemia died within a year or two of this Comet.

A.D. 1661. A Comet appeared in the morning from Febr. 3. to March 28. S.T.N. It was below the Dolphin, between the heads of *Aquila* and *Equuleus* in the 10. Grad. Its distance from the Earth was at first 2000, and at last 9000 S.T. so that it was higher then the Sun. Its motion direct from the East to the West. The Telescope discovered a Star to be in the body of the Comet about which a more thin and dilute matter might be discerned. Febr. 5. that Star was divided into several parts. Febr. 6. it was dissipated into many little Stars, one of which was more dense and shining then the rest. The blaze was obscure, and about seven degrees in Longitude, according

According to *Hevelius* (y) but *Franciscus Millic* (z) writeth that it was sometimes extended unto 20 Degrees in Longitude, of a conical form. As for Events, the *Turks* fell upon *Germany* (where especially this (a) Comet was observed) making woful havock there. That black *Bartholomews* day, which the *Nonconformists* in *England*, so much complain of, hapned but half a year after this Comet. The *Fanaticks* lay, that the like is not to be paralleld in any History, that five and twenty hundred Ministers should be silenced in one day. It is also said, that these Stars which were thus cast down, were some of them of the first magnitude. And therefore a Comet might well precede an event so remarkable. But this must pass for a *Phanatick* notion. Not long after this Comet, the cruel *Tartars* made incursions into *Hungaria*, *Moravia*, *Silesia*, sacking and burning many Towers, and making no less then an hundred and threescore thousand Souls Captives, (r) whom they sold to their barbarous Brethren the *Turks*.

A.D. 1664. A famous Comet was conspicuous to the whole VWorld this year. Many have published their Sentiments concerning it. A Reverend and worthy Person (b) amongst our selves

y *Cometogr.* L. 12. P. 892, &c. z *Astron* L. 8. P. 582. *Edlins* Discourse of the Conjunction, An. 1663. a v. *Morrens* Geography, P. 140. b Mr. *Danforth* Pastor of the Church in *Roxbury*.

(who

(who is now ascended above the Stars) hath let us his observations about the motions of this Comet as by himself taken notice of. But no man hath done it with greater accuracy then *Hevelius*, who being singularly advantaged with the best Mathematical Instruments which the World can afford to make discoveries of this nature. (c) Reports that it was observed by him in *Dantzick*. Decemb. 14. S.T.N. About 5 h. A.M. in the 8 Degree of *Libra*, the head of a somewhat yellowish colour, affording a dull and dim light, never so vivid and splendid as the true Stars or Planets appear with, in the very middle of which one might perceive a more clear shining body, whose diameter was about four Minutes, invironed with a thinner Body of 12. Minutes, whose light was more dim. But when observed with a long Telescope, one might see that the Star in the midst of the head of the Comet, did not consist of one clot only, but of many particles, some of which were more compact and lucid, others more thin and obscure. As the subtile matter observed about the small particles like Nuts in the body of the Comet, was condensed, the head grew bigger, so as that *December* 29. it was observed to comprehend 24 Minutes, and in the midst of it a most lucid and thick clot, of a fiery colour, which was compassed about with matter, some of which was

c. *Id libro supra citato.*

more

more rare, some more dense, intermixed with lesser Nuts or Stars. In the beginning of *January*, that thick and lucid Clot began to attenuate, and break away, whence the head of the Comet was diminished, that *January 6.* it seemed to contain but 8 Minutes, *January 22.* The form of the Comet was not exactly round, but seemed to be rough and broken, and in some places pointing out more then in other places. As for the true magnitude of the Comet, it was at first about six times as big as the Earth, after it was diminished in *January*, it was again augmented in *February*. It did not alwayes keep the same distance from the Earth. The *Parallax* was 59. *sec.* In the midst of its appearance, when the motion was most swift about 4. *m.* and at last but 16. *sec.* So that at first it was distant from the Earth 3500. *S. T.* in the midst 1000. And *February 4.* 1200. *S. T.* Towards the end of *December* when nearest to the Earth, it was twenty times as far off as the Moon, in the middle of *January* it was as high as the Sun, in the beginning of *February* as remote from the Earth, as *Mars* is. The Blaze was 14. Degrees in Longitude, being towards the extremity spread abroad, resembling a *Peacocks* tail. It appeared sometimes longer, and sometimes shorter, *December 21.* it was observed to be 22 Degrees in length, and towards the point of it, to bend a little, the concavity towards the horizon, but the next day it was straight again

December 28. a sudden and great alteration was observed in the Blaze; for it pointed not toward the West, as before it had done, but upwards and towards the North. From December 29. it began to incline more Eastward. January 5. the Blaze pointed directly towards the East. It was observable that it seemed still to point toward the *Gemini*; so that the Blaze was ever in opposition to the Sun; and we may therefore conclude that it did proceed from the beams thereof, piercing through the body of the Comet. The Star lost its Blaze in the latter end of January, and yet recovered it again in part in the beginning of February. Its motion was retrograde, from *Corvus*, through *Hydra*, the *Ship*, *Canis major*, the *Hare*, *Eridanus*, the head of the *Whale* unto *Andromeda*, so that it passed through six signs in the *Zodiac*, viz. *Libra*, *Virgo*, *Leo*, *Cancer*, *Gemini*, *Taurus*. Thus far is *Hevelius* his account of this notable Comet. Not long after this another, no less admirable did appear. It was by the but not mentioned learned person first observed, April 6. S. T. N. about 1 h. A.M, in the breast of *Pegasus*, viz. in 14. 21. of *Pisces*, and Lat. Borealis 26. 30. of a clear and radiant aspect. In the midst of the Comets head one might with a *Telescope* discern one *Nucleus* or Star very lucid and shining like Gold, which was encompassed with a more dilute matter. The Blaze proceeding therefrom was almost as thick as the matter in which

which the *Nucleus* was contained. April 8. it appeared very lucid, so that one might perceive the Comet after the other Stars disappeared, the *Nucleus* not much altered from what it was at first April 16. the Comet seemed brighter then any of the fixed Stars, yea to outshine *Saturn*; then by the help of the *Telescope* one might discern the *Nucleus* to be more bright and bigger then before. The *Diameter* of the *Nucleus* was less then *Jupiters*, but equal to *Saturns*, whence one might conclude that the Comet was as yet increasing. The *Nucleus* seemed to cast a notable shadow on that side which was averse to the Sun. For the blaze seemed to be divided, the reason of which might be because the *Nucleus* was so compact and solid, that the beams of the Sun could not pass through it, only through the thin matter which was on both sides of it. The matter on the fore part of the *Nucleus* as the Comet came nearer to the Sun, appeared to be more acuminate and diminished. The *Parallax* of this Comet was at first 69 *sec.* at last 41. *sec.* The magnitude of the *Nucleus* was 12. *sec.* and of the whole head of the Comet 6. *min.* so that when nearest to the Earth, it was sixty times as high as the Moon, and at last as high as the Sun. The blaze was 17. sometimes 25. Degrees as to its visible Longitude. The motion of this Comet was direct according to the order of the signs, at first appearing in *Pisces*, and at last in *Taurus*. It
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continued for the space of fourteen dayes.

As for remarkable Events attending these *Blazing Stars*, we cannot but remember what doleful things quickly followed. An unhappy War between two *professing Nations*, viz. the *English* and the *Dutch*, whereby much Christian and Protestant blood was shed. A terrible Plague in *England* the like never known there before this time, so that in *London* (besides what was in some other parts of the Nation) there died sometimes above seventeen thousand in one week; and more then an hundred thousand were swept away in a years time in that one City by the besome of Destruction which the Lord sent amongst them. The next year the *Papists* set *London* on fire; which dreadful Conflagration continued for several dayes, until eighty seven Parishes were consumed by those fatal flames. The smoak of that burning caused the Sun to look as if it were turned into darkness, and the Moon into blood. It hath been computed that there were burnt within the Walls of the City twelve thousand houses, and without a thousand. * The whole damage amounting to at least nine Millions, and nine hundred thousand pounds *sterling*. Also, the miseries which the *English* inhabiting the *Caribbee Islands*, were not long after these Comets, exposed unto, not only by the Sword of their Enemies,

* See Mr. *Mordeys* Geography, P. 18.

out by the prodigious Tempests which God sent amongst them, are still fresh in memory.

A. D. 1667. Feb. 15. A Comet was seen only the *Coma* and not the Star could be by us discerned by reason of its being in the sign *Pisces*, where the Sun then was. Its Longitude above thirty Degrees. † *March* 1. Its extream point reached to that Star in *Eridanus* which is called the fourteenth by *Bayerus*. *March* 2. it passed through the 15 Star in *Eridanus*, and left to the Southward the 14th. tending to the Southern Star which precedes the Ear of *Lepus*, so that it was more Northerly, and more Easterly then at first. Both in *Italy* and in *Portugal* it was observed at the same time, as with us in *New-England*. Also at *Lions* and several other places in *France*; and yet (which is very strange) it was not observed at *Paris*, nor at *London* or in any part of *England*. The *London Gazette* saith, that *March* 17. at *Venice* they observed a Comet to the North-East, the tail of it much longer then that which appeared three years since, but of less brightness, and that it was seen late in the night.

As for Events; many places were this year sorely afflicted with *Earth quakes*. In *Asia*, there was an horrendous *Earth quake* which continued for 80 dayes together. The Cities of

† See the Philosophical Transactions for An. 1668. vol. 3. P. 683, 684.

Begbara, Angora, and several other Towns suffered much thereby. The City of *Tocall* was wholly levelled to the ground. *Potie* (a considerable City) was destroyed, a thousand and eight hundred persons being killed by their Houses falling upon them. *Torqueto* (another considerable City) was overthrown in a moment, and above six thousand persons lost their lives, being buried in the ruine, of the City. Also several places in *Europe* were affrighted with Earth quakes this year: particularly *Constantinople*, and *Adrianople*; but especially *Raguse* which was in a great part destroyed. Also the Plague broke out, in the chief City of the *European Tartary*; and in *great Poland*, and in *Paccardy*, it raged in *Donay*, *Ghent* and other places. A fire in *Moscow* destroyed thirty thousand Houses, and five hundred Churches and Chappels; a great part of the Cities of *Gottenbourg*, and *Stetin*, were this year also consumed by fire. In the Countrey about *Cadix* there was a great Drought, so as that the Death of many of their Cattle was occasioned thereby. The *Turks* made very furious Assaults upon *Candia*, which was the next year surrendred to them. The King of *Poland* resigned his Crown into the hands of the States, by which means that Kingdom was involved in troubles and confusions. A prodigious Tempest lapped there, Hail stones of an incredible bignets fell upon the Trees, breaking them so as was strange to behold. The people

ple there concluded that this Hail-storm was a presage of their future sufferings. *Don Juan* caused great Troubles and Commotions in the Kingdome of *Spain*. There hapned a Popular Tumult in *Sardinia* wherein the multitude enraged at the Taxes imposed on them, killed the *Vice-Roy*. In *Affrica* *Taffiletto* made great Stirrs subduing the Kingdomes of *Fex* and *Morocco* to his obedience, so that by his Conquests, he at last styled himself not only the King but the Emperour of *Barbary*.

A.D. 1677. A Comet appeared in the sign *Taurus*, between the Base of the Triangle, and the unformed Stars in the Cloud of *Aries*. The head of it was in a right line with the heart of *Cassiopeja* and the *Alamak*. (d) It seemed to be about the bigness of a Star of the first magnitude, but of a much fainter and duller Light. It had a bright Star in the middle of it, about the brightness of *Saturn*, when near the Horizon, and was about 25 Seconds in Diameter, the matter in which it was involved having an hazy shining, but not so clear, and bright, and dense as the *Nucleus* in it was. The length of it was about eight Degrees, sometimes longer, and sometimes shorter. *Cassini* observed it at *Paris*, April 18. * *Hewelius* at *Dantzick*, April 17. and it

d See Mr. *Robert Hooks* Remarks upon this Comet. * *Philosophical Transactions* for the year 1677. P. 863.

continued until *April 28, h.e. 12 dayes.* Its motion being direct, it soon came to be in conjunction with the Sun ; and then could not be by us discerned.

As for Events following this Comet ; within a year a Town in *Piedmont* called *Bosia* suddenly sunk down into the Earth, so as that nothing of it appeared, only two persons in the whole Town that escaped with their lives. But I find that some late Writers in *England*, think that this Comet was an *Omen* of the late Horrid Popish Plot, wherein it was resolved that the Protestant Name should no more be had in remembrance, which hellish design was ripe for Execution, had not He which sits in the Heavens prevented. It was before observed, that *Hamans* bloody Conspiracy to cut off the Lords People, was attended with a Blazing Star. And why might not this Combination of the *Antichristian* party (which was worse then that of *Hamans*) be so too ? Now as the Discovery of *Haman* (who was a Type of *Antichrist*) his wicked contrivance, ended in the utter destruction of himself, and of his Children ; So the Lord grant that the revealing of this Popish Plot may issue in the ruine of *Antichrist*, and of those that do uphold him ; and let every Man that fears God, or that bears any love to his Name and Truth, say, *Amen !*

A D. 1680. The motion of the Comet which appeared this year, was diligently followed by
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the Ingenious Mr. *John Foster*, the late Printer in *Boston* in *New-England*. And though he be gone (not without a publick loss by his death and the sorrow of many) it being mentioned amongst evil Omens, that the cunning Artificer shall be taken away) he hath left behind him, some of his Observations concerning this Comet. It was first here taken notice of *Nov. 14.* at 5. h. A.M. near 18 Degrees of *Libra.* 1 Gr. and 30. min. *Lat. Austral.* *Nov. 19.* It was within a Degree of *Spica Virginis*, directing its course Northward about 40. min. Several Mornings after that were cloudy here in *Boston*, and not long after it was in conjunction with the Sun, so that it was seen no more in the Morning. It was then conjectured that within a few dayes it would appear in the Evening, and so it did *Dec. 10.* when only the *Blaze* and not the *Star* was to us visible. *December 12.* Its *Blaze* appeared very red and fiery, extending as far as the breast of the *Swan.* *Dec. 14.* its head was first discerned, the *Blaze* passing to the North-ward of *Cor Aquila.* *Dec. 16.* its appearance was very terrible, the *Blaze* ascended above 60 Degrees almost to its *Zenith*, growing continually broader from the head, and was brightest on both ends, especially on the South side, the middle considerably darker then either of the sides. *Jan. 8.* Gave the fairest opportunity to find its true place and parallax, by its approach to a fixed *Star* of the third Magnitude, in the
right

right shoulder of *Andromeda*. At 6. h. 5. m. it was 28. m. distant from that Star. At 50. m. past 6. its distance was 25. m. At 10. h. 5. m. The Comer passing by the said Star, left it 12. m. Southward. Its visible hourly motion was 6. m. direct, which if compared with its daily motion, we shall find it little (if at all) retarded by reason of its *Parallax*, which is an evidence of its vast distance from the Earth. For if it had not been much higher then the Moon, its true motion would have far exceeded its visible. About the middle of *February*, it vanished out of our sight.

As for Remarkable Events, attending this Blazing Star, We that live in *America* know but little of the great Motions in *Europe*, much less in *Africa* and *Asia*, until a long time afterwards. Only we are informed of some considerable Commotions the last year, between the *Tartars* and the *Chinese*. Likewise in *Hungaria*, some things worthy of Remark have hapned. Above four hundred Villages in that Countrey have lately been laid desolate by Sword and Fire. The *Turks* have an Army on foot there, and it is strange to consider (only God maketh the Earth to help the Woman) that those Barbarous Infidels, should declare unto the Emperour of *Germany*, that they will not be at peace with him, except he do's restore unto the oppressed *Protestants* their liberties and estates which have been unjustly taken from

from them. The Pope has disposed of the Ecclesiastical 10th. in the State *Millan* to be employed in a war against the *Hungarian* Protestants. This last Summer the Protestants (commonly called *Rebels*) in those parts have had Wonderful successes against the Popish Generation. It is possible this may be a beginning of *Revenge* upon the Enemy. The great expectation, is, that the next year the *Grand Signior* will come in person against the Emperour, with the most formidable Army which hath been known in the World for these many ages. It may be another (the last and most fatal) blast of the second wo Trumpet, is now about to sound. In the Summer after this *blazing Star*, there was an afflictive Drought, not only in *America*, but in *Europe*. The next (i.e. the last) winter, there was a great Inundation in the *Netherlands*; many thousands perished in the fatal night when those great Waters came nigh unto them. It is said that those Provinces suffered more by that Inundation, then by all the *French Wars* which of late have been so heavy upon them. The poor Protestants in *France*, are blazing in a flame of Persecution. The *French KING* in his Declaration newly come forth, boasts that he hath caused several Millions of Protestants to forsake their holy Profession, and to turn *Roman Catholics*; He also and the Pope are quarrelling who shall be Pope in *France*. Yea his hand seems to be against every one, and every mans against him;
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the issue whereof must needs in probability be some great overturnings and alteration of the present State of Affairs in *Europe*. And besides these particulars (which are considerable) other things have come to pass in *Europe* since the Comet last mentioned, which deserve to have a Remark set upon them. For the last year there was a terrible conflagration in *Moscow* (it begun in a Stable) whereby four thousand Houses were consumed, and turned into ruinous heaps. And this last Summer the great City of *Plesco*, is made desolate by fire, not above seventy Houses remaining. Also the *Czar* (or *Emperour*) of *Muscovia* is lately dead; and his Death hath occasioned a very great Commotion about a Successour to the Crown. At first his Brother was Proclaimed; but the City of *Mosco* rose up in Arms about it, and the Souldiers there have lately made a dismal slaughter amongst the Nobility and chief Citizens, deposing the late *Czar's* Brother, and setting up his Uncle as *Emperour* in his stead. For three dayes together (*viz.* 15, 16, & 17 of *May* last) things in that great and imperial City, were in the strangest Confusion imaginable; on the seventh day of *June* last, a terrible *Earth-quake* hapned in that part of the World, continuing for the space of half an hour, whereby many stately Fabricks were thrown down to the ground, and an hundred lives destroyed by their fall. Moreover this last Summer, God hath opened the Windows of Hea-

ven in a very awful manner, so as that the Floods occasioned by the great Rains, have destroyed many Towns in *Sicily*. We hear that Mount *Etna* (which has been wont to vomit Fire) has of late cast out such an abundance of Water, as that the Neighbouring Countrey is drowned thereby. We hear also, that on the sixth day of *June* last, a most prodigious Tempest hapned in *Sicily*, whereby the Town of *Randazzo*, *Franca-ville*, and *Tortorica* became subject to a sudden and unexpected ruin. About half an hour before Sunset, there hapned so great a darkness, as that no object could be distinguished at the distance of four paces; after which there arose an amazing Storm of Rain, Thunder and Lightning, which lasted for thirty six hours. About one of the clock in the Morning, great Torrents fell upon the Neighbouring Mountains, with such irresistible fury, as that Trees of extraordinary bigness were carried away before them, which coming against *Tortorica* threw down the Walls and Houses thereof, 600. of the Inhabitants were drowned. The Arch-Deacon, and many others ran into the Church of *St. Nicholas* for safety, but the violent Waters overthrew the Church, and destroyed all the People which hoped to find Sanctuary therein. On the 25 of *June* last the Popes Palace of *St. Peters* in *Rome*, was stricken with a Thunder-bolt, the Fire-ball passing from one Room to another, until it ended that where the Pope useth to give Audience

Audience. *Fanaticks* think that this may be an Omen that Heaven will pour down a Viol full of Wrath upon the Throne of the Beast ere long.

A.D. 1682. It is reported that in *Germany* a Blazing Star was seen *June 17.* in the South-west, which continued visible for the space of an hour, and was then obscured by the rising of the Sun. If that Relation be true, there have been two Comets (or one hath twice appeared) this present year. For it is certain that there was one visible in *August* last. Some had a sight of it *August 15.* for my own part, I saw not until *August 18. 3. h. A.M.* when it was in the foreclaw of *Ursa major.* The stream about 10. Degrees in Longitude; the Star bigger then that which appeared about 2 years ago. It was then perceived by us in *N.E.* only in the morning, whenas I am informed by Letters from *London*, that they saw it in the Evening the same night when we beheld it in the morning only. By reason of its septentrional Latitude, tis past doubt that in the more Northern Climates it was seen both in the morning and in the evening of the same day, yea all the night long, as hath been noted concerning the Comets appeared *Annis 1431, 1470, 1513, 1607.* *August 23.* it was by us in *New-England* seen in the Evening only, having removed from the place we first saw it in, about 39 Degrees, and was come near *Coma Berenices*; not considerably changing its Latitude, but moving in a line almost parallel

parallel with the Ecliptick. That it passed through *Coma Berenices*, and through the leg of *Bootes*. August 31. Its Latitude was diminished from 24. to 16. Gr. It was come between the feet of *Bootes*, about 75. Degrees from the place we first saw it in. I had not an opportunity to view it with a *Telescope* above once (and that was Sept. 12.) through which it appeared to be a very dim and hazy kind of body. It was then about the foot of *Virgo*, where it disappeared in the Month of *September*.

There is an Anonymous Astrologer in *London* (some of whose Notions are taken out of *Gadbury's* Book of Comets, Printed Anno 1665.) that has published his Sentiments upon this Comet; presumptuously determining not only what the Events are which shall attend this, with the former Blazing Stars, but the places, yea and persons concerned therein. No man of wisdom and judgement can relish the boldness of such a Prophetastor; Especially considering that he does prædict things that are contrary to the Scriptures of Truth. He prophesies of the *Turks* Conversion, and consequently Salvation; when as the sure Word of Prophecie unto which we shall do well to give heed, informs us that the *Turk* shall come to his end, and there shall be none to help him, *Numb.* 24. 24. *Dan.* 11. 45. *Rev.* 9. 15. The vain Astrologer likewise affirms, that *Rome* shall be destroyed by the *Turkish* power, when as the
holy

holy Scriptures assure us, that it shall be done by some of those horns which have given their power to (the Pope) *Antichrist*, which the *Turks* never did, *Rev.* 17, 16. If men did with understanding read the Scriptures more, they would mind Judicial Astrologers less. This notwithstanding I find that judicious Writers are of Opinion that such a *Saturnine Comet* as this was, hath a natural influence into, and therefore does portend, a cold and tedious Winter, much Snow, and consequently great Floods; Malignant and Epidemical Diseases; in special the Plague: concerning which *Deus avertat Omen!* Somethings worthy of Remark, have already hapned in *Europe*, being contemporary with this *Blazing Star*. I understand by Letters, that Vines and Corn are very much damaised, in several Countries by the great Rains which have fallen the latter end of this last Summer. We are also ascertained, that about the middle of *September* last (the Comet being hardly out of sight) there was a very prodigious Tempest in *Italy*. Not far from *Florence* there hapned most terrible Thunder and Hail mingled with Fire; the Hail-stones were many of them three, some of them five pound in weight; the like was never known in these parts; The wild Beasts and Birds were killed thereby. For the space of eight Miles in length, and two in breadth. It swept away all the Branches from the greatest Trees, as *Oakes*, *Chestnuts*, &c. It destroyed all the

the Autumn Harvest that was on the Ground, and left not a Vine standing. It carried away the roofs of Houses; inasmuch as persons were killed in their beds. A Church was beat down to the ground, and the Bells carried a quarter of a mile. Since this Discourse was written and sent to the Presse, we have the sad Tidings of another dismal Fire, which hapned in *London* this Winter, viz. on the 19th. day of *November* last: It is reported that a thousand Houses were consumed in those unhappy Flames. What further Events shall attend this *Blazing Star* which our eyes have so lately beheld, is known unto him, *Who ruleth in the Army of Heaven, and doth what he will amongst the Children of Men.*

CHAP. X.

That Blazing Stars are commonly signs of evil Events, therefore not to be slighted; nor this last Blazing Star which is attended with such rare Conjunctions of the Planets. Judicial Astrologers condemned. The Conclusion.

FROM the things which have been expressed, We may rationally conclude, that all the wise Men who lived in all former Ages were not altogether mistaken, when they believed that Comets are forerunners of some great and commonly mis-
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terrible

terrible Events hastening upon the World. Judicious *Zanchy* (as well as *Mede*) conceives that by the *Pillars of Smoke* spoken of in the Prophet *Joel*, as portentous of the amazing and terrible things which were coming upon the Jewish Nation Blazing Stars are meant, he saith that when he lived at *Strasburge*, there was a Comet seen; after which the death of some great Personages, and civil Wars in *France* ensued: and addeth (a) that if we read and observe Histories, we shall find that thus it hath been ever since the World begun, that Comets have never appeared, but soon after, miserable Wars, mortal Diseases, &c. have followed. So that they are preachers of divine wrath, and the consequences of them prove fatal unto some or other, in which respect all ought to walk with an holy fear of the infinite Majesty, who doth whatsoever he pleaseth in Heaven and Earth, in the Sea, and in all deep places, and accordingly causeth such tokens to appear in the Heavens when it seemeth good unto him. And whereas, *Droughts*, *Caterpillars*, *Tempests*, *Inundations*, *Sicknesses*, are frequently known to follow upon the appearance of such *Phænomena's*, I see no sufficient reason why we should not suppose them to be not only signal but causal thereof; and perhaps of *Earth-quakes* (b) also. It is undubi-

a De operibus Dei, L. 3. C. 2. b Non defuerunt qui ex coeli observatione terræ motum prædicerent. *Philo.*

ble that the true Planets and fixed Stars have a natural influence into such things, though the manner of their operation is by us silly Mortals undeclarable. *Gen. 1. 14. Dent. 33. 13, 14. Judg. 20. Job 38. 31, 32, 33.* And therefore it is not impossible but that *Comets* may have the like natural influence, especially when they are near to the Sun, and that therefore the Blaze proceeding from them reacheth the Earth, though by us undiscernable. The light which the Moon receiveth from the Sun hath a physical and wonderful influence upon the Earth, so may the Beams which blaze through a Cometical body have likewise. As to their natural operation, they may have different effects, causing Droughts in one place, inundations in another, Earth quakes in another, &c. according to the occult qualities which are in the subjects of their influence. And whereas Wars, Commotions, Persecutions Heresies, the Death of Princes, Changes, and overturnings in the World, do usually happen after the appearance of such stars, they seem to be only signal and not causal of such events. The reasons alledged by some to prove that Comets have a physical influence into such effects are not solid. I should therefore rather conclude, that they are signs of such things to follow only in respect of their *Universal* and *Supernatural* cause, God having ordained them for that end, that so the Inhabitants of the World, when they behold such fearful sights might there-

by be awakened unto repentance. I know some Learned Men do not assent unto this conclusion. *Scaliger* laughs at their conceit who (c) suppose that Comets threaten Kings and Kingdomes. *Budrius* (d) hath published a Tractate, whose design is to prove the contrary. And the truth is, that the Arguments insisted on by the Admirers of *Aristotle* are frivolous; And when they speak of Comets falling upon the Earth, and for infecting the Air, and tell us that sometimes Stones of a Sulphurous nature have fallen down out of them, their phantasies are ridiculous. But it doth not follow that a principle is not true, because it hath been weakly maintained by some that have undertaken its Patronage. The weightiest objection against the inference which we adhere unto, is, That there have been some happy Comets; and that the evils pretended to follow after them, have sometimes hapned when no Comet hath appeared. *Tacitus* calls that an happy Blazing Star which was seen before *Nero's* Death, because it signified the downfall of one that had a malignant influence upon the whole Earth; Others mention the Comets that were observed before *Wickliff*, *Huss*, and *Luther* began to publish the Gospel, as happy Omens that the light of truth should be dispersed in the World. But truly, the number of instances on this hand, is so small and inconsiderable, that it cannot invalidate their

c De subtilitate exercit. 79.

d Referent

Keckermannus in Syst. Phys. L 6. P. 742.

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Affertion, who affirm that *Blazing Stars* are most commonly portentous of evil Events. And if we should say as some do that the appearance of a Comet is like the coming of a New Ruler to the people, (e) *Either a great good or a great evil,* there is room left to fear the worst. Moreover, as there are contrary Interests in the World, so that may be happy for one, that will be woful for the other. And although such evil Events as those in the preceding Chapters related, have sometimes hapned without any blazing star immediately forerunning, that doth not prove, that when such signs do appear in heaven, they are not signal of miseries not far off. Wars & commotions have hapned though Armies have not been seen fighting in the Air. Will any man therefore say, that such apparitions are not to be accounted ominous or significative that evils of that nature are like to ensue? However, it is certainly much better for men to fear and prepare for the worst, then that Judgement should overwhelm them in their sin and security. A Jesuit confesseth, (f) that when *Johannes de Capistrano* upon the appearance of a Comet. A.D. 1460. declared in his publick Sermons, that except the world did reform their lives and wayes, they might justly expect that great Calamities were at hand, it was both piously and prudently done of him. It is dangerous for men to jest with such awful works of God. They that do so are guilty of worse

e v. *Keckerman* in eodem libro P. 732. f *Ricciolus* P. 34.

then barbarous prophaneſs: and ſuch perſon
(be they high or low) ſeldome long eſcape the
Vengeance of Heaven. Some have obſerved
that (g) when *Pericles* ſlighted a great *Eclipse* of
the Moon, it proved a fatal *Eclipse* to him, and
to thoſe that he was concerned in. And *Vespasian*'s
Example ſhould teach men to be careful how they
deſpiſe ſuch Works of God. *Lege Hiſtoriam v-*
ſas Hiſtoria. The merciful and righteous God
uſeth to diſcharge his Warning pieces, before his
Murdering pieces go off. Thrice happy they
who take the Warning. I know not but that the
poſſeſſed man might ſpeak Truth, who affirmed
the beſt Verſe in *Virgil* to be that,

Diſcite iuſtitiam moniti & non temere Numen.

And as for this laſt *Blazing Star*, which is ge-
nerally diſregarded amongſt Men in the World, it
ſeemeth to be the more Ominous, in that ſome
rare *Conjunctions* of the *Superiour Planets* happen
this year alſo: *October 20.* There was a *Con-*
junction of *Saturn* and *Jupiter* in *Leo*, there ha-
ving been in the præceding Moneth of *September*
firſt a *Conjunction* of *Jupiter* and *Mars*, and the
of *Saturn* and *Mars* in the ſame ſign. And
(which is notable becauſe unuſual) theſe two
Superiour Planets make two *Conjunctions* mor-

in the same sign, the one in the next Month, viz. on the thirtieth of *January*, in the 18. Degree of *Leo*; the other the sixth of *May* next in the sixteenth Degree of the same sign. As for those great Conjunctions of all the Planets which happen but once in 794. years, there have been but seven of them since the World begun. The second of which was attended with *Noah's Flood*. The third with the overthrow of *Pharaoh*, when the Children of *Israel* were brought out of the Land of *Egypt*. The fourth with the Captivity of the *Ten Tribes*. The fifth with the beginning of the Christian, and the Destruction of the *Jewish World*. The sixth with the division of the Empire in the dayes of *Carolus Magnus*. The last was 79. years ago. A Learned and Judicious Author (*b*) saith of it, that as the foundation of *Rome* was laid at the same time when the Children of *Israel* were carried into Captivity by the *Assyrians* under the fourth of these Conjunctions, so the seventh ere the consequents or concomitants of it be over, will be attended with the conversion of the *Jews*, and the utter ruin of *Rome*, which he thinks will come to pass in the year 1694. About which time some others conjecture that great things will be accomplished in the World. Mr. *Brightman* on *Rev. 9. 15.* concludeth that the present *Turkish Power* shall not be

b *Affidius* in *Chronol.* Cap. 48.

continued beyond the year 1696. Dr. *Moor* supposeth that the time allotted for the Reign of *Antichrist* will expire about the year 1692. *Du Moulin's* judgement was that the Pope shall not be able to make War with the Saints, so as to overcome them any more, after the year, 1689. *Quirinus!* Others conceive that *Annus* 1688. will be a year of wonders, which brings to mind the Verses published by *Regiomontanus* above two hundred years ago,

“*Octogesima Octavus mirabilis annus*
 “*Ingruet, & secum Tristitia fata trahet.*”

Whether any of these have guessed right, he that lives thirteen years hence, will be better able to say: I am apt to believe that ere this Century be expired, there will be very great Revolutions in the World. But besides these general ones, there are particular Conjunctions of the two Superiour Planets, which meet together once in (about) 20 years, and use to continue in their conjunction, until *Mars* come and joyn with them; and then it is admirable to behold three great Stars shining in the same sign in the Heavens, without any scintillation, * and these some call great Conjunctions (1) as portending great Events in

* v *Kepler* Epit. Astron. L. 6 P. 854. (1) Conjunctio Saturni & Jovis vocatur conjunctio magna quia res magnas portendit. *Keckermay.* Astron. L. 1. C. 12.

the

the World! And such a conjunction there has & will be within this twelve months, besides several others, in the same year and in the same Sign in the Heavens (as but now was noted) which is admirable to consider; some say the like hath not been these two thousand years. And it being in one of the signs in the *fiery Trigon*, there are who conclude that great Desolations by burning are at hand. I find that some weighty Writers conceive that such rare Conjunctions are portentous not only of great Revolutions and Changes, but also of new and unheard of Diseases amongst Mortals. The judiciously learned *Hospinian* (k) seems to incline unto this Opinion. It cannot be denied, but that the Planets have a great influence upon the Earth as to things which according to the course of nature are produced: The *five lesser Planets* are in the Scripture, by way of eminency termed (l) *Stars of light*, and are conjunctly mentioned with the Sun and Moon, as affording light, and being influential to the Earth beyond what may be affirmed of other Stars, *Psal. 148. 3.* therefore to observe the Motion of the Cœlestial bodies, and what effects they do produce according to the ordinary course of nature, which the divine providence hath stated, is lawful and good. *Turnæus* reports (how he knew it to be so, I

k De origine Fœstorum Christianorum, p. 28. l By the
ver in Psalm 8. ver. 4.

cannot tell) (m) that the Holy Patriark *Abraham*, by occasion of the Comet which appeared A.M. 2018. was induced to study Astronomy, that so he might be the better able to judge of the nature and meaning of such works of God. All this notwithstanding the curiosity and presumption of *Indicial Astrologers*, is not to be justified, who undertake peremptorily to Prognosticate, what the particular things are, (yea, and the places and persons concerned in them) that shall come to pass after such Configurations and Planetary Aspects. I have read of a *Mahomedan Astrologer* who did prædict a great inundation to be in *Syria*, A.D. 1095. because of a Conjunction of all the Planets (except *Saturn*) in the watery sign of *Pisces*, (like as it was before *Noah's Flood*) which fell out to be true. But such *Astrologers* have at other times come off with shame by their bold and rash predictions, as *Calvisius*, and *Wendelinus* have more then once noted e.g. A.D. 1186. because of rare Conjunctions of all the Planets then hapning; the *Astrologers* of those dayes declared that there would follow horrendous Tempests of Wind, and after that I know not what miracles, nothing of which came to pass. Again, A.D. 1322. By reason of a notable Conjunction of the Planets in *Libra*, one *John David* (a great *Astrologer* at *Toledo* in *Spain*) and many others with him, sent forth his Procla-

Referente *Keckermanno* in *Syſtem. Phyſic. P. 762.*

relations abroad into the V World, declaring that that Conjunction of the Planets would be attended with Famine, Earth-quakes, and such a Storm of VVind, as that there would be no living above Ground, affirming that all the Philosophers and Astrologers in *Spain*, *Arabia*, and in *Greece* were of the same Opinion. But when these things should be accomplished, not a word of them proved true. Another on the like ground, declared that the World would end, *Anno*. 1464. Another from the like Planetary Conjunctions, prophesied that *Anno*. 1524. a General Deluge would overwhelm the Earth; which many injudicious people giving credit unto, got either into Ships or unto high Towers, lest haply the *Astrologers* flood should drown them. † But the event proved these predictions to be false and foolish.

Thus God delights to baffle *Judicial Astrologers*, when they will presume to know the times and the seasons, which he hath kept in his own power. It was the saying of a wise King in *Poland*, that to be able certainly to predict future Events is Gods Prerogative: * And a wiser then he, yea, the wisest amongst the sinful Sons of Men hath said, A Man cannot tell what shall be,

† v. *Wendelin*. Cont. Phys. Sect. 2. P. 349. * *Opinio præteritorum homini certa esse potest; futurorum per naturam non admodum potest, quamvis Deo tempora omnia presentia sunt*, P. *Rami* Dialect. Lib. 2. Cap. 3.

and what shall be after him, who can tell? Eccl. 10. 14. Notable changes have hapned in our dayes, which the *Monethly Prognosticators* could tell us nothing of, before that God who rules in the Kingdomes of Men brought them to pass. The *Star-gazers* in old *Babylon*, who by looking upon the Heavens, and observing the Courses and Conjunctions of the Stars there, would undertake to tell the fates and fortunes of Kingdomes, all the *Judicial Astrologers* and *Wizards* there, could not by all their skill in the Stars read their own and the Nations ruin, until the day that it came upon them, *Isai.* 47. 13, 14. Therefore it is not good positively to determine what the particular miseries or mutations are, nor the persons or places that shall undoubtedly perceive the effects thereof, when rare Conjunctions of the Planetary Bodies happen, or when *Blazing Stars* appear. Only that at least some of those Evils which have been wont to attend the like appearances, are at the door, we may rationally conjecture and conclude.

I shall therefore finish this *Discourse*, with the apposite and celebrated Expressions of that Famous *Poet* (*n*) who Speaking of *Comets*, saith,

“ Pontanus qui nulli sui seculi poetæ cedit, dicente Bo-
etio in *Bibliotheca*,

*Illi etiam belli motus, feraque arma minantur
 Magnorum & Clades populorum, & funera Regum;
 Ut cum, seu Cœli occasum, seu solis ad ortum
 Extulerint caput infelix, & crine minaci
 Horrendum latè implerint terroribus urbes, &c.*

To the same purpose another in *English*

speaketh thus, (o)

*a Silvester in
 his Translati-
 on of Dubar-
 tas, P. 14.*

There, with long Bloody Hair, a *Blazing Star*
 Threatens the World with Famine, Plague & War;
 To Princes death; to Kingdoms many crosses;
 To all Estates, inevitable losses:
 To Herdsmen Rot, to Plow-men hapless Seasons;
 To Saylor, Storms: to Cities civil Treasons.

Soli Deo Gloria.

ERRATA

P. 4. L. ult. r. Element. p. 19. l. 16. *Har Gagnash.* p. 43.
 l. 11. for the r. this. p. 56. l. 5. r. *Martell.* p. 69. l. 19. for
 their, r. the. p. 94. l. 23. for whatsoever r. whosoever.
 p. 101. l. 13. for seconded, r. succeeded. p. 102. l. 28. r.
 19 in 12. sec. p. 108. l. 17. should be read thus, 23. Gr.
 41 min. The second Comet this year appeared *November*
the tenth, continuing, &c.

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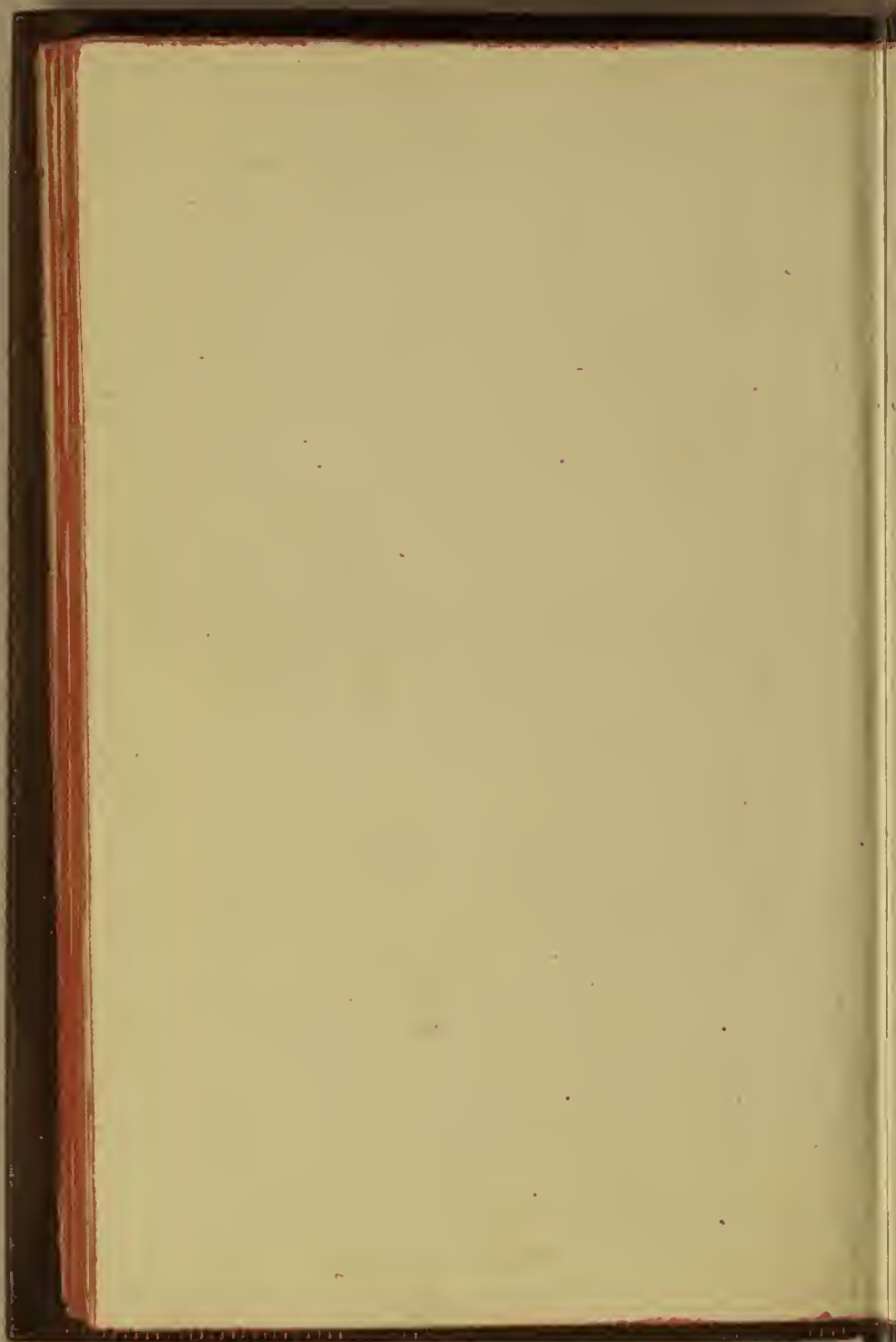
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